



DHS News

The Official Newsletter
of the

Deposit Historical Society

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The Deposit Historical Society

145 Second Street

Deposit, New York 13754

(607) 467-4422

Website: www.deposithistoricalsociety.org

Note: You can view our newsletters with color pictures in pdf format on our website!

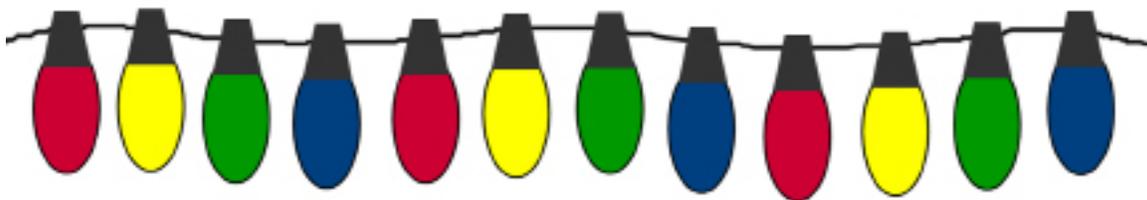
President's Message

To be short and sweet is the goal for the first newsletter from a different point of view and editor. The society has had a beneficial year so far. The monthly programs have all had record attendance and great public participation. This is always hoped for and a definite benefit for those who enjoy the variety.

As the year winds down, more new members have been added to our roster of dedicated directors. Welcome to Kathy Watkins, Wayne Winne, Mike Musante, and Steve Cox. New volunteers help revive and maintain all the good works we can accomplish in our future. More bright ideas bring forth renewed vigor.

I look to their help with the remainder of the monthly projects already set forth. After the Oktoberfest and the October 16 quarterly meeting, December brings our last venture. The Christmas open house always rings up cheer and fellowship for all. Singing carols, chasing reindeer, and sitting on Santa's lap, among delicious cookies and treats, feeds the Holiday soul. Feel free to attend and help us finish off a great 2013!

Sincerely,
Richard Axtell, President



**Annual Christmas Open House.
Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 2 to 4 PM.**

Join family and friends as we celebrate the holidays in our beautifully decorated Museum. Enjoy delicious refreshments and special musical entertainment with the Holdrege family singers. Be sure you don't miss The 12 Days of Christmas—a very popular part of the program!



Memories of Cannonsville

On the evening of July 24, 2013 a standing room only crowd was treated to a double header.

The large crowd first viewed *Indian Summer*, a poignant film that chronicles the final days of Cannonsville as a community. The film focuses on daily life in Cannonsville, mostly through the eyes of a young boy (Ralph Vanderslip) and an older man (Robert Gregory). The film ends as Cannonsville's trees are being uprooted and its buildings burned to make way for the reservoir.

Next on the agenda was a talk by Helen Schriver-Zandt, a native of Cannonsville. Mrs. Zandt is well-known for her Rockroyal News column in *The Deposit Courier*. She is also the author of a book, *Memories*, a collection of recollections by former Cannonsville residents. In her words, the book is a record of things that "are not". It took Mrs. Zandt three years to transcribe the stories in *Memories* that were contributed by former Cannonsville residents. Because the memories continue to be offered, a second book will be published next summer.

LINCOLN'S GIFT FROM HOMER, NEW YORK

On August 21, 2013, Martin Sweeney, author of *Lincoln's Gift From Homer, New York*, described, to a large and enthusiastic Deposit Historical Society audience, how one small town in New York played a significant role in the life and history of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Sweeney, a master storyteller, acquainted us with three native sons of Homer, -- a detective, a journalist, and a painter -- and the stories of how these men influenced the history of our country.

Mr. Sweeney vividly described the roles played by:

- private investigator, Eli DeVoe, who foiled an assassination plot against Lincoln before his first inauguration,
- journalist, William Osborn Stoddard, who encouraged Lincoln to run for President and became an influential secretary of the president, and
- artist, Francis Bicknell Carpenter, who painted *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet*, which still hangs in the U.S. Capitol.

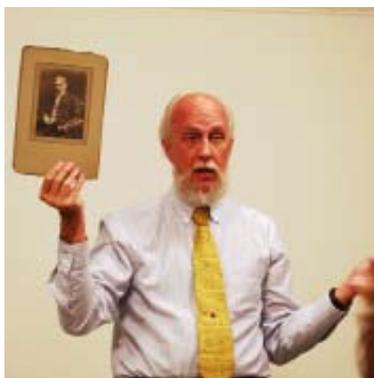


Lincoln would never have been President, if not for the detective work of Eli DeVoe. DeVoe, the fifteenth child in his family, was born in a log cabin in 1809, the same year as Lincoln. On February 11, 1861, President-elect Lincoln boarded a train in Illinois to travel to Washington, DC for his inauguration. The train was scheduled to stop at and go through the pro-slave and anti-Lincoln town of Baltimore on February 23, 1861. In response to rumors that an attack was going to be made on Lincoln, detective Allen Pinkerton infiltrated a group that was planning to assassinate Lincoln. At the same time, unknown to Pinkerton, DeVoe and his partner infiltrated other groups and discovered two more assassination plots. Pinkerton and DeVoe independently uncovered the plans to detonate an explosion on the Gunpowder River Bridge and, during the resulting confusion, kill Lincoln. As a result the President-elect reluctantly agreed to secretly board another train to finish his journey while his family continued on in the initial train. After the Civil War, Eli DeVoe worked in the secret service. The somewhat mysterious DeVoe died in 1876 at Summit, New Jersey.



William Stoddard was born in 1835 in the first brick house in Cortland County. He attended the University of Rochester, where he earned a law degree. He became a journalist and met Abraham Lincoln while running a newspaper in Illinois. Stoddard's editorials, suggesting that Lincoln should run for President, were instrumental in getting Lincoln to run. Stoddard moved to Washington with Lincoln. After the Civil War broke out, Stoddard became Lincoln's assistant secretary. In 1862, Stoddard penned the first copies of the Emancipation Proclamation from Lincoln's hand-written notes. Stoddard's death in 1925 marked him as the last of the Lincoln administration to die.

Francis Carpenter was born in 1830 to a farming family. Although his father did not initially support young Carpenter's artistic desires, the father eventually relented and sent Carpenter to Syracuse Art School. Carpenter then moved to New York City where he lived the rest of his life and painted portraits of many famous people of his time. In 1864, Carpenter met with Lincoln and began the 6 month work of sketching Cabinet members and Lincoln. In 1866, Carpenter returned to his hometown of Homer to exhibit the 14 ft. by 8 ft. painting of Lincoln, *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet*. The painting was first hung in the White House in 1878 on Lincoln's birthday. It is now hanging in the Senate side corridor.



Mr. Sweeney, a retired history teacher, is the Homer town historian and a history tour guide for the Homer Center for the Arts, as well as a member of the Homer Board of Education, the Lincoln Forum of Gettysburg, the Cortland County Historical Society, and the Association of Public Historians of New York State.

Bob Wyer Photographs

During the month of September, the Deposit Historical Society was privileged to display local photographs by photojournalist, Bob Wyer (1908-1982). The photographs were on loan from the Delaware County Historical Association in Delhi.



Special thanks to new Board member Mike Musante and his wife Gail for the excellent display of the photographs. Thanks also to Terry and Becky Raymond and Harry and Carol Epstein for transporting the display from and to Delhi and to Elaine Reinhardt for arranging the loan.



Deposit Historical Society Annual Calendar for 2014

The Program Committee is working on the Calendar of Events for the upcoming year. Once more details about these programs are finalized, the calendar will be posted on our website: www.deposithistoricalsociety.org. Updates will be noted on our website as they occur.

For your reference, a preliminary schedule of events for 2014, is listed below.

As always, all events are free and are at the Deposit Historical Society Museum.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 6:30 PM: Covered Dish Supper, 7:30 PM: Annual Meeting and Program.

Entertainment -- "Travlin' The Road" singers

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 7:30 PM: Grandma's Attic Appraisal Night

Bring your treasures to the Museum for an interesting program and evening of fun as antiques expert Richard Axtell shares his extensive knowledge of antiques.

Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 10 AM to 3 PM: 13th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair

Sunday, May 25, 2014: Museum Opens for the 2014 Season

Museum hours are Sundays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 PM. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Come and enjoy one of Delaware County's finest museums.

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 7:30 PM: Early American Frontier History

George Cummings and Brian Flint will speak about Indians in the Ouaquaga area (near Windsor)

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 7:30 PM: The Myth of the Last Cause of the Confederacy

David Clutz, author and historian, presents the story of the unsung heroes of the 137th regiment that turned the tide for the Union side during the Civil War.

Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 9 AM to 3 PM: Brown Bread and Baked Bean Sale at the Lumberjack Festival

Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 7:30 PM:

Hank Loftus, curator of Dorflinger Glass, will present a program.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 7:30 PM:

John Darrow will present a living history program on General Edward F. Jones, a Civil War general and Binghamton businessman.

Sunday October 12, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM: Annual Harvest Pie Sale during Deposit's Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 12, 2014 (Columbus Day Sunday):

The Museum closes for the season on this date at 4:00 PM. The Research Library will still be open on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 AM until about noon. Call ahead of time to be sure, or to make an appointment!

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 7:30 PM:

Rick Zacharias, Deposit's funeral director, will present a program on undertaking in the old days.

Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 2 to 4 PM: Annual Christmas Open House

Join family and friends as we celebrate the holidays in our beautifully decorated Museum.

Octoberfest Pie Sale

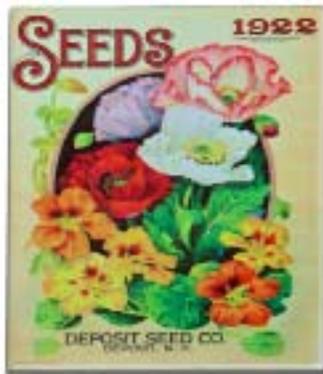


Our Octoberfest annual pie sale was a great success once again. We had more than 30 pies donated and sold every delicious one. Many thanks to our new Board member, Kathy Watkins, for coordinating the pie donations of the many excellent pie bakers of Deposit. Thanks also to those who helped with the setup and take down of the booth and those that manned the booth during the sale. Those who helped and participated include: Terry and Becky Raymond, Lars Updale, Harry and Carol Epstein, Terri Mastrandrea and Elaine Reinhardt .



In addition, we sold a number of publications and other items from the Museum gift shop, including our exciting new addition, our series of 6 by 8 inch ceramic tiles, featuring the covers from the catalogs of the Deposit Seed Company from the years 1921, 1922, 1927, 1929 (front and back) and 1932.

If you missed Octoberfest, you may still purchase the tiles by contacting the Museum by phone (607-467-4422). The tiles are \$20 each, plus applicable shipping for mail orders. Three of the tiles are shown below. The tiles include a cork backing (excellent for use as a trivet) and a hanger for displaying them on a wall. The tiles would make great gifts for the holiday season.



Thank You

To all the following people who contributed to the success of the October Harvest Pie Sale...

- ** to Harry Epstein, Terry Raymond and Lars Updale for transporting and setting up the booth
- ** to Carol Epstein, Becky Raymond, Terri Mastrandrea and Elaine Reinhardt for manning the booth,
- ** to all the wonderful bakers who provided so many delicious pies

What Is It ?

Where Is It ?



It will Soon Be Membership Renewal Time Again..

If you are not a lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2014. Please send us your check for the amount due, along with your name and address. *We welcome additional donations too!*

The current rates (per individual) are as follows: Lifetime membership \$100, Annual membership \$20, Senior or Student membership \$10.

Please make the check out to Deposit Historical Society and mail it to Carol Epstein 59 Parker Rd., Deposit, NY 13754. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Contact the DHS News editors for information, suggestions, or address changes...

If you have information to share with us about our mysteries, historical events, or suggestions for new articles or projects at the Museum, **or if you have moved**, mail it to DHS Newsletter editors Michael and Gail Musante at 199 Front Street, Deposit, NY 13754, or email it to one of us at gail.musante@gmail.com We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!

**The Deposit Historical Society Newsletter
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