

DHS Newsletter:

July 2003

Is this really summer? Compared to last year we have plenty of water and an over abundance of lush greens and flowering plants we've never seen before. As we are recorders of time the very word has flown by so quickly since January.

Father time has claimed more of our members who will be sadly missed: Clayton Warner, Virginia Knapp, Dorothy White, Jean Hoff and Sylvia Axtell. We have increased our family of members to include: Albert Adams, Jr., Khadijan Rauf, Tamara LaGraffe, Dorothy Weis, and Judy DePalma.

Our annual meeting in January was successful once again with a record attendance. A covered dish supper was served with many delicious dishes. The entertainment for the evening was provided by Dr. Mark Andersen, an internationally recognized concert and recording artist; who played in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center as well as serving as Professor in the Julliard School of Music in New York. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his playing of the piano and singing popular tunes. We experienced a very hard winter this year. Not only did our rates of gas and electric increase stunningly but our activity at the Museum was hampered by ice and snow. However, the usual workers kept going as many Tuesday mornings as they were able so to do. Ellen Jogo, Mary Cable, Ann Parsons and Kay Hoban all worked diligently to support the Museum collections. Kay Hoban and Ellen Jogo are writing and compiling a new book to be sold. It is, more or less, the history of Deposit using the past works of Marshall Hulce and / or Vic Ruegger. Richard Axtell, Nancy Brewer, John O'Connor and Walter Tucker were voted to another three-year term and Joyce Axtell was voted to succeed Mary Cable as Director. Mary continues to work as much as she can for the Historical Society. As long as we can remember, she has spent much of her life accruing information about the local family's genealogies. We owe a great deal of gratitude to all of our unpaid volunteers. Without them our society would not function or grow.

Our April 23rd quarterly meeting had again a good record number in attendance to hear Charles Decker of Afton present a splendid report on the history of Blacks in 19th century upstate New York. A few facts might be interesting to you. In 1771, 11.8% of New York's population was Negro. As our immediate area was settled, well to do land owners sometimes brought their slaves with them. By 1813 Chenango and Madison Counties (then joined), still had thirteen slaves working for landowners. By 1827 all New York slaves had been freed.

Our second annual Folk Art and Music Festival happily returned on May 17th for another exciting group of exhibitors. A greater attendance enjoyed the food, fun, crafts people and exhibits all day. The third event will occur next year on May 15th, from 10:00 - 4:00. We have received two important items for our collections, both permanent gifts. The most valuable of the two is a folk painted rendition of "The First Thanksgiving" created by Antonio Esteves, New York City. A "house paint oil-on-masonite" given to us by his son and daughter-in-law, Joseph

and Margaret Esteves. Margaret is related to the Babcock brothers who were 19th C Deposit cabinetmakers living on Pine Street. Antonio Esteves is considered one of the country's best primitive untrained artists. His works are to be found in the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. Oddly enough a quilt stitched by Emeline Peck was given by the Littell Family (relative). It and a marriage certificate are displayed together with her sampler. We urge you to attend our programs and look over our fascinating displays. You may visit Tuesdays from 10-12 or May through October Thursdays and Sundays from 2-4.

May 17th we will present again the old-fashioned Folk and Craft Festival on Saturday 9-3 at the Museum. Chairperson Joan Axtell will contact forty plus area craft people and many will show their works on the grounds of the historical Society Museum. Last year proved to be an exciting event for the Museum as we had nearly 300 people ongoing in attendance.

The annual meeting will take place January 22nd 6:00 p.m. at the Museum, 145 Second Street, Deposit. Bring table settings and a covered dish of your favorite food. Enjoy music by the celebrated Mark Anderson, noted pianist and organist. Don't miss this great event!

Our Library of publications is increasing, the books and pamphlets we have for sale now include not only our newly published "Strolling Through Time" but a generous gift from the A.C. Pete Adams family, a book about Cannonsville families, stories and reminiscences called "Cannonsville, Names and Places." These books are available at the Museum, Axtell Antiques and Cranes Restaurant or you can order them from Axtell Antiques at \$6.50, including postage and handling.

Dues are due. Annual \$5.00 per person, Life \$50.00 per person. Those of you who receive this and are annual members your dues are due and can be sent to, Mr. Richard Axtell, Axtell Antiques, 1 River Street, Deposit. NY 13754.

Sincerely,
Richard S. Axtell, President

Historical P.S.: These are from "Scraps, Gleanings, and Extracts" by E. A. C. Hulce, 1843.

First Scrap: "There are only two genuine remedies for sorrow, namely, - prayer and work. Trust in heaven and keep doing, is the best recipe for every human care. There are no wounds of the spirit which it will not heal." Scrap Two: "Fashionable society".