



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

**Deposit Historical Society**

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The Deposit Historical Society

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

## **A Farewell Message From the Newsletter Editors...**

For a number of personal and family-related reasons, we have decided to sell our home in Deposit and move to Nottingham, New Hampshire. This decision was not made easily. We love this area and have made many friends over the past 12 or so years. It has been a pleasure serving on the Board of Directors of the Deposit Historical Society and contributing as much as we were able. It is hard for us to imagine that we have been producing this newsletter for eight years—more than 32 issues!

We also realize that our moving at about the same time as Harry and Becky Dilello have resigned from the Board will leave the organization with a void that must be filled. All of the Board members contribute greatly to the success of the organization. The loss of four at one time is no trivial matter.

We are confident that there are others in our community who are willing and able to step up to help keep the Historical Society the superb community asset that it has always been. There is much to do, from the genealogy and accessioning work that goes on quietly each week in the Bundy House Museum office, to finding presenters for our regular public programs, to the maintenance of our facilities, to helping with our booth for the Lumberjack Festival and Octoberfest, to acting as sitters when our Museum is open to the public, publishing the newsletter, maintaining the website, keeping membership and financial records, and much, much more! The list sometimes seems endless, but when people step up, the work DOES get done! Please volunteer to help. Don't let the Deposit Historical Society down—do come forward!

We leave Deposit with sadness, but at the same time are excited about our future. We will miss our many friends and acquaintances, and wish you all well.

John Bartsch and Mary Colvard

## **President's Message**

It is now the time to reevaluate our method of purpose. The group of historical members are about to experience a change of events. Due to certain attrition of very valuable board members, it seems necessary to introduce a tighter set of plans and guidelines under which we continue.

The retirement of Harry and Becky Dilello; and the imminent move of John Bartsch and Mary Colvard have stimulated me to rethink the way our museum and it's services operate. I believe the extremely wonderful tireless work and dedication shown by these four over the years is truly not replaceable. I will be calling on more of the members to pitch in with help to keep the society doing the public opportunities in a current and popular way. Again, thank you for your years of work.

Sincerely,

Richard Axtell, President

## The Brown Sisters

A postcard in our collection shows seven smiling young ladies standing in a row—the daughters of Deposit pharmacist C. K. Brown I and his wife Elizabeth. On the back of the postcard, Louise Brown Hinman wrote, “A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. This picture of the Brown girls was taken in 1883.” They are Adeline, Jane, Emily, Louise, Mary, Beth (Elizabeth), and Caroline Brown.

There is another photo, with the note, “For Addie, Merry Christmas. 1918 From Bess taken about 1883.” It is difficult to tell if the photographer set up his backdrop in the Brown house or if it was done in his studio.

A later photograph shows the sisters as mature women. They are from left to right: Louise Brown Hinman, Mary Brown Miller, Emily Brown Hitchcock, (back) Adeline Brown, Bess Brown Scott, Jane Brown.



Caroline Brown Bryant died young.



In addition to the seven daughters, C. K. and Elizabeth also had one son, Charles Jr. The family had a house in the village and in 1883 decided to build a vacation home on the northeast corner of Oquaga Lake. The cottage was appropriately named, The Seven Daughters. Perhaps this is where the first photo was taken. Charles Brown passed away in 1902 at the age of 59. Elizabeth died in 1920. She left the cottage and house in Deposit to her son who sold it to Glen and Bernice Martin in 1945. His sons, Lee and

David Martin now own the cottage.

Also in our collection is a copy of a poem written by Benj. F. Taylor which follows:

### SEVEN TIMES ONE ARE SEVEN. OQUAGA LAKE.

I sail in a barge on a mountain lake,  
To the glitter and dip of rowers’  
blades,  
While the hum-bird breezes startle  
and shake  
The shadows out from the fern-leaf  
glades.  
And the wavelets cling with their  
kissing lips  
Round the headlands small that  
scallop the shores.  
While the barge on its errand silently  
slips  
By the cottages fair with their open  
doors.  
And atoms of melodies drifting out,  
As thistle-down silver hither and yon  
By winds in a frolic is blown about,  
So the tones float fitfully one by one,

In ripples of laughter and tuneful  
whirls  
From the Cottage of Seven by the  
crystal street.  
The seven sisters are the only girls,  
For they dance in the teens with  
their merry feet:  
“The luck to odd numbers is always  
given,  
And seven time one are seven!”  
These maids of the Mount are the  
Pleiades  
Of a home in the valley of paradise-  
fair,  
There are seven of those and seven  
of these,  
No thought of cloud or a shadow  
there.  
They cluster like clematis round the

door,  
And they cling like roses to garden  
chairs,  
When they stand in a line on the  
level floor  
You cannot help fancy them  
climbing stairs.  
A beautiful vision the maidens then,  
Like the strings of a harp from little  
to long,  
In time and tune from robin to wren,  
Let them keep up the count tho’  
troubles throng,  
And be singing together the roundel  
song:  
*“The luck to odd numbers is always  
given,  
And seven time one are seven!”*

## 12th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair

Saturday, May 18, the weather was beautiful! For the first time in years, the sun smiled upon the Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair. Inside the museum, there were a number of vendors, special exhibits, and a DHS sponsored bake sale. On the grounds outside the museum building, attendees were treated to vendors selling quilts, soaps, jewelry, and food. The Deposit Garden Club did a brisk business selling local perennials and a variety of herbs and houseplants. The West Branch Ramblers treated everyone to two hours of music.

The day was a great success. Special thanks go to all of the vendors, volunteers, shopper, browsers, and other individuals supporting the event. We look forward to another successful (and fun) craft fair next spring. Here are some pictures highlighting the day's events:



## Living History Program with John Darrow



Did you ever use Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure? How about Dr. Kilmer's Indian Cough and Consumption Oil or Dr. Kilmer's Female Remedy? Binghamton historian and Kilmer enthusiast John Darrow stepped into the character of Dr. Andral Kilmer, inventor of the longest existing proprietary medicine in the United States. Mr. Darrow shared the history of the Kilmer era in Binghamton. Swamp Root, which consisted of peppermint, turpentine, and alcohol (10.5%), was one of the first 200 medicines licensed by the FDA. It came with a 100% guarantee, "If for some reason, you don't like the way it tastes, I guarantee it will pass."

The Kilmer brothers, Andral (1840-1924) and Jonas (1843-1912), were extremely successful businessmen. Andral developed several patent medicines. His Chenango Street lab is where the medicines were produced and from where he was kidnapped by the Loomis Gang. One of the gang members had been shot and they wanted Kilmer to cure him—which he did. He was put up on charges for this but was eventually vindicated. Andral Kilmer was nominated three times for mayor of Binghamton and was a member of the Knights Templar.

Jonas arrived in Binghamton after Andral and purchased the company from him and brought in his son, Willis (1869-1940), to do direct marketing and advertising. The business successfully expanded throughout the United States and South America. During its height, the Kilmer Swamp Root company netted a few million dollars a year.



The Kilmer influence was far reaching. Dr. Kilmer founded "canceratoriums" in three different locations and purchased the little town of Osborne Hollow, now Sanitaria Springs, where he established a building where people could undergo a "water cure." Since many of his patients couldn't handle stairs, he installed an elevator.

Willis and Jonas were caught stealing from Andral. Willis was distraught and it is rumored that he burned the factory to the ground. Both Pinkerton and the Binghamton Police Department investigated the affair. Somehow Jonas and Willis got the rights to the medicine and image in 1901. Dr. Kilmer got the sanitarium.



Jonas and Willis built mansions on Riverside Drive. Jonas Kilmer's home is the present day Temple Concord and is open to the public during Hanukkah. Mr. Darrow conducts tours by appointment. When Jonas lived in the mansion, it featured elephant hide curtains and chairs, stone parquet flooring and fire breathing dragons on either side of the porch. They were hooked up to gas.

Willis founded his own newspaper, the Binghamton Press. The newspaper was housed in a skyscraper he had built at 19 Chenango Street. Mr. Darrow shared that Kilmer waited for the Security Mutual building to be completed and then added another story to his skyscraper so that it would be the tallest. It retained

that distinction until the construction of the State Office Building. Folklore has it that Kilmer's ghost can be seen playing with matches in the basement of the State Office Building.

Willis also owned racehorses and stabled them at Sun Briar Court which was located on Riverside Drive where Lourdes Hospital is today. Other stables he owned were Court Manor in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and Remlick on the banks of the Rappahannock River. Exterminator, the horse that won the 1918 Kentucky Derby, belonged to Willis.

Mr. Darrow was an excellent presenter and the evening flew by. He brought with him several Kilmer artifacts and offered to arrange a tour of the former Kilmer mansion if we were interested.



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### Calendar Update—September Program Finalized

On Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:30 PM the Historical Society will be presenting a special “Witchcraft Program.”

Bernice Telian, genealogist, author, and Meredith Town Historian since 1997 will present a program based on her latest book: *My Grandmother Mary Was Hanged*, which tells of the witchcraft accusations and trials of unfortunate women who died because of superstition. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

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### Deposit Seed Company Tiles For Sale at the Museum

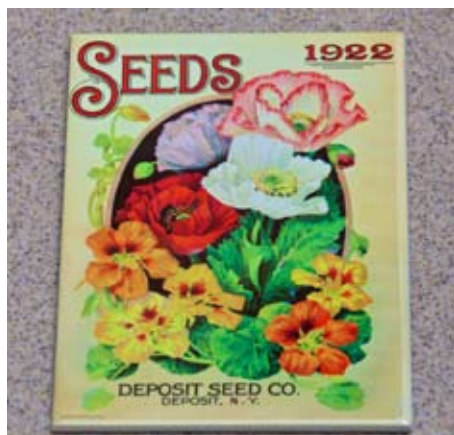
In the Seed Trade column of the 1909 issue of the American Florist, it was announced that “J. J. Bell, formerly connected with the J. J. Bell Seed Co., has organized a new company known as the Deposit Seed Company which will begin business on a larger scale than formerly.”

The Deposit Seed Company played an important role in the village's history. For that reason, and also because many of the catalog covers are beautiful works of art, we have decided to produce a series of 6” x 8” ceramic tiles featuring covers from 1921, 1922, 1927, 1929 (front and back), and 1932.

The 1921 catalog featured American Giant Mastodon Pansies. It is claimed that the “Blossoms shown on the front cover do not do justice to the marvelous giants. The blossoms being so much reduced in size look somewhat inferior.” You could order a packet of mixed varieties for 15¢.

Under the heading of Our Mail Order Seed House in the 1921 catalog, it was written that they could handle 5,000 orders a day “with a system that is absolutely correct.” Pretty impressive!

If you would like to purchase one or more of the tiles, please contact the Museum by phone or email. They are \$20 each at the Museum. Shipping costs will be added to mail orders. Three of the tiles are shown below. They include a cork backing and a hanger for displaying them on a wall.



## Local World War II Veterans Honored by Historical Society

The Deposit Historical Society presented “World War II Remembered,” a program commemorating local World War II veterans, on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at the Deposit State Theatre.

Richard “Smitty” Axtell, Deposit Historical Society President, welcomed the audience, led them in the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced the first speaker, Mayor John O’Connor, who produced the program. O’Connor, a military



**John O’Connor**



**Harry Epstein**

historian and collector of military memorabilia for 67 years, had sent veterans letters requesting them to reminisce on their wartime experiences. Among the responses O’Connor shared with the audience were those from the following veterans or from their families: Ray Scott (US Army), Jim Jones (US Navy), Bruce Begeal (US Army), Ray Ferguson (US Army), Tom Hanrahan (US Army), Claudia Miller (US Navy), Marcus Millspaugh (US Navy), Bill Robertson (US Army 25th Division), Ray O’Dell (US Air Force), Vivien Skeus (Camp Santo Thomas- deceased), Ed Wist (US Navy), Gladys Evans (US Army nurse- deceased), Ryan brothers: Bernard, Paul, Larry, and Michael Vincent- all deceased, Tink Vandermark (USMC Amphibious Battalion- deceased), Milt Walker (USMC: intense Pacific Island fighting- deceased), Justin Hartz (US Navy Seabee: Okinawa, April 1945- deceased), Raymond Truesdale (USMC: Okinawa, April 1945- deceased), Freddy McGill (drafted in all theaters of war: North Africa, Italy, islands- deceased), Paul Buck (Midnight Clear: behind German lines- deceased), Justin Buchanan (intense infantry in Europe- deceased), Floyd Wright (US Navy- deceased), Jim Miller-(US Army)- deceased, Russell Holdrege, Howard “Barney” Smith- deceased), Buck Stevens- deceased), and Lloyd Hibbard- deceased).



**Bob Charles and grandson**

Next, Harry Epstein, program assistant to O’Connor and Deposit Historical Society Treasurer, read some of Ray Hathaway’s stories involving his time spent in the US Air Force, plus a touching letter written by soldier Raymond Truesdale to his family during wartime.

Tom Baudendistel spoke on behalf of his grandfather, Robert Charles, a US Army veteran. Following his grandson’s presentation, Charles came on stage to acknowledge the audience and their reception. Rich Petterson gave a short, personal account of his “hitch” in the US Navy while Ken Darling concluded the evening’s program with remembrances of his father,



**Rich Peterson and Battleship**

Earl, who served in the Coast Guard as General Patton's 3rd Army Squad Leader and his father-in-law, Bill Smith, who served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Star and witnessed the flag being raised at Iwo Jima.

Prior to and following the show, audience members viewed an array of wartime memorabilia including uniforms, artillery, photos, helmets, newspaper clippings, and scrap books displayed in front of the stage. A large sheet cake displaying the American flag and other refreshments were enjoyed at the end of the evening by the nearly packed theater.



Some of the memorabilia on display

Thanks to our veterans and their families, John O'Connor, Harry Epstein, the speakers, and Carolyn DeNys and the State Theatre, "World War II Remembered" will be remembered by all those fortunate to have attended as a night rich in history, nostalgia, and sentimental value.

### Help Support the Museum with Your Membership!!

January was dues month, and some of you haven't renewed yet! Please take a moment right now to send us your annual membership check. We need to have many dues paying members if we are to continue providing quarterly newsletters, regular FREE events, and have the Museum open to serve our community. Lifetime members can ignore this reminder—we thank you for your support!!

If you aren't a Lifetime member, please consider it. It is really a bargain and ends the hassle of joining each year. Dues currently are \$20 regular membership, \$10 for Seniors and Students, and \$100 for a Lifetime membership. Please send us your payment today! You may also want to include a tax-deductible donation with your dues payment! Below is a membership/donor form, or you may download one from our website. OR... you can just send us your name and address with a check for the correct amount made out to Deposit Historical Society, and we will do the paperwork for you!! Thanks for your support!

#### Deposit Historical Society—Membership/Donor Form

You are cordially invited to join The Deposit Historical Society, either as an Annual or Life Member.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following memberships:

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular @ \$20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Citizen @ \$10.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Student @ \$10.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime—one-time payment of \$100.00 per member



I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation to the Historical Society for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks/Money Orders should be made payable to: *Deposit Historical Society*

Mail this form with your payment and/or donation to:

Mary Colvard, 24 Bobolink Court, Deposit, NY 13754

## Upcoming Events (July through September) at the Deposit Historical Society...

*Be sure to check the DHS website for a complete calendar with the latest details and updates.*

### **Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 7:30 PM: Indian Summer: The Cannonsville Story.**

A feature film by Norm Struder about the construction of the Cannonsville reservoir along the west branch of the Delaware River will be presented. In addition, stories will be told by a panel of former Cannonsville residents and family members including Helen Zandt and others. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

### **Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 7:30 PM: Lincoln's Gift from Homer, NY.**

A Painter, an Editor and a Detective, will be presented by author Martin A. Sweeney who will provide a brief overview of his captivating book that links three native sons of Homer, NY to preserving Lincoln's life and legacy. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

### **Month of September 2013: Bob Wyer's Delaware County—Photographs From the Mid 20th Century**

Visitors will view photographs from photojournalist, Bob Wyer (1908-1982) on loan from the Delaware County Historical Society.

**...Also note the September calendar update on page 5 of this newsletter...**

#### **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 Mary Colvard and/or John Bartsch at 24 Bobolink Ct., Deposit, NY 13754, or email it to one of us at [mcolvard@tds.net](mailto:mcolvard@tds.net) or [jbartsch@tds.net](mailto:jbartsch@tds.net). We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!! Note: We are not moving until September at the earliest, so you can still contact us in this way.

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**24 Bobolink Ct.**

**Deposit, NY**

**13754**