

DHS News

The Official Newsletter of the Deposit Historical Society

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The Deposit Historical Society

145 Second Street

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Website: www.deposithistoricalsociety.org



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

President's Message

Making a Fresh S.T.A.R.T. in 2007

STOP making excuses why I as a member don't make use of the Deposit Historical Society. Accept the responsibility to help others. As we move ahead with our mission, we will listen to others and use their advice. That includes the board members too! We won't give up too soon and be not discouraged by any bumps in the road!

TAKE stock of your life and possibilities of personal assets you can give to help us. All of us have experienced many things. Are all those experiences we do to improve the Society wasted? Certainly not! We all have many talents to share with the group. As you ask yourself ,what can I do to improve the Museum; think about what you've learned, what are my assets, how can I relate to museum work? You all can help us!

ACT in faith that our successes, based on your belief in our future, that we'll proceed as a group. We should make goals counting on our board to direct us. Get out of the plan what you put in. Enjoy the fruits of a task well done. Get organized for 2007!

REFOCUS your thoughts in order to change your mind. Be careful how you think, life is changed by your thoughts. It will change the way you act. Don't be fearful and worry. Be transformed by renewing your mind. Stop thinking the same old way. Let go of old habits. Open new doorways. We're like trees along a river, that do not dry up. We'll succeed in everything we do.

TRUST your positive instincts to help our Society and Museum accomplish what we need to. All of us working together for a common goal promises to make 2007 the best ever! Enjoy what we do together with much happiness and fellowship!

Sincerely, Richard S. Axtell, President

••• January Meeting and Covered Dish Supper •••

Forget about winter and the weather for a while! Bring your appetites, a family-sized dish-to-pass, and table service for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 24th. Coffee and tea will be provided. The supper will begin at 6:30 pm, followed by a brief meeting and then a Karaoke sing-along featuring some songs from the 30s, 40s, and 50s--including *In the Good Old Summertime*, *Ain't She Sweet*, and *Hail Hail the Gang's All Here*, and more! **Don't miss it!!**

December Open House

Beautiful decorations, delicious homemade refreshments and special musical entertainment provided the backdrop for our annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 3rd.

Thanks go to the Deposit Garden Club for lavishly decorating the museum, the Hempstead Singers for their delightful musical renditions, the China Valley Clovers 4-H Club and others who provided homemade cookies, and to board members Mary Colvard, Becky Dilello, Sandy Axtell, and Pat O'Donnell for setting up and cleaning up.

After a brief welcome by President Richard Axtell, members of the Hempstead family singers took over. Daughters Hannah, Susanna, Sarah, Nadia, and Joanna joined their mother, Julie in the musical festivities. Julie provided some historical background for

many of the songs the group sang. In addition to often inviting everyone to sing along, Julie handed out a “test.” Favorite holiday songs were given different titles. The challenge was to identify as many of the 25

carols as possible. Some examples are *Colorless Yuletide* (*White Christmas*), *Singular Yearning for Twin Anterior Incisors* (*All I Want For Christmas is My Two Front Teeth*), *The Quadruped With the Vermillion Proboscis* (*Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*), and *Frozen Precipitation Commence* (*Let It Snow*). Becky Raymond was the only one to guess *Endocarp Vesicated in a Conflagration* (*Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*)!

All those present enjoyed an opportunity to socialize and get in the holiday spirit.



***Growing Up...As I Remember It!* Part Two by Mr. Lyle C. Brown**

The first installment of excerpts from Lyle C. Brown's book about growing up in Deposit appeared in the July DHS newsletter. In that edition, Mr. Brown shared his memories of the physical layout of the village, the Erie Railroad, State Route 17, and Doctors Axtell and Latimer. If you missed the July edition, it is available on the DHS web site. Enjoy more Deposit history as it comes alive through his wonderful narrative.

Mr. Brown wrote, “The Brown household could not be described as typical. It was intergenerational and such families may have been more common on the farm, but not in the villages.” He goes on to write, “There were periods when all of the following could be found living under one roof at 104 Second Street. Mother and Father Brown, children—Shirley, Mary, Lyle, Warren, and Albert, Grandmother and Grandfather Brown, Grandmother and Grandfather Carley and Aunt Lena Brown.

Cousin Helene also lived with my parents in the early days of their marriage and spent various times there during the years.” He adds that his Aunt Lena secured a job teaching in a rural one-room school a couple of miles out of town. She kept her car in the Oquaga Garage which was a commercial garage just up the street on

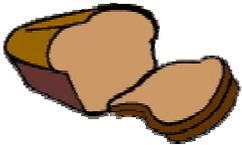


the corner. Mr. Brown shared that his “Aunt Lena didn’t marry until she was fifty years of age, and marriage seemed to mellow her considerably. She coped very well through many trials in her life and survived until the age of 97.”

“There was usually at least one other member of the Brown household who was not a member of the family. I am referring to the “hired help.” There was a time when a high school girl from the country worked for her “keep” during the week and went home on the weekends. However, it was usually a young woman who worked full time coming in each day. In our family, the domestic help was treated as family including eating their meals at the table with everyone else. My sister, Shirley, pointed out to Mother that her friends had maids who wore uniforms and ate in the kitchen. This however was much too pretentious for Mother who, after all, was the consummate democrat.”



Meals at the Brown house must have been interesting. Mr. Brown explains, “ I don’t remember much about the kinds of meals we had in my earlier days, when numbers around the table were the largest. Sunday dinner, however, was apt to be chicken, served midday after Church. Later on, when the numbers decreased with the passing of grandparents, and we were into the depression era, I can remember the economy dishes Mother whipped up. She was very *inventive* with creamed toast! To the cream sauce she would add such things as peas, chopped egg, or chipped beef. I must not forget the dreaded creamed codfish!”



Brown bread and baked beans were the typical Saturday night supper. “The beans were soaked overnight on the stove, and baked in the oven with salt pork, molasses, and other good stuff. Nobody else ever made them that good! Mother often said, “beans is the Brown’s middle name.”

Stamp Collection Donated

Former Deposit resident Stuart Wilson donated his stamp collection to the Historical Society with the understanding that money raised from its sale will be used to fund museum projects. Mr. Wilson’s collection filled several albums and boxes and covered many decades and nations. His United States accumulation was by far the most significant including several stamps from the famous Graf Zeppelin series, as well as, the Trans-Mississippi Exposition series. Many of the covers, postcards, and stamps were sold at auction through the B. Trading Company in Albany, New York. Several thousand dollars was raised. Several lots remain that did not sell at auction. They include the following:

- USA stamp Cat. No. 72 with an estimated catalog value of \$210.00
- USA stamp Cat. No. 17 with an estimated catalog value of \$110.00
- a group of 20 pages from Wilson’s U.S. album containing 20+ stamps dating from 1847 to 1869 with a total estimated catalog value of \$700.00
- a group of album pages containing 38 stamps dating from 1922 to 1928 with an estimated catalog value of \$135.00
- a group of album pages containing 27 “back of the book” stamps representing the following categories: Offices Abroad, Carrier, Special Delivery, Newspaper and Periodical, Postage Due, and Parcel Post. The estimated catalog value of this last group is \$300.00
- An “exploded” booklet of 1 cent green George Washington stamps. One pane of six stamps is missing. The booklet originally contained 97-stamps
- official stamp on United States Internal Revenue Service cover with estimated catalog value of \$75.00



Anyone interested in making an offer on one or more of these lots is invited to get in touch with Mary Colvard mcolvard@tds.net or (607) 467-6152.



Donation from Village Hall

At the beginning of our October meeting, Lucy Lantz, town court clerk, presented the Historical Society with a late 1800's court record book found at the Village Hall. The records indicated that the most common crime of the day was drunkenness, punishable by a \$5 fine or up to 5 days in jail for those unable or unwilling to pay the fine. President Axtell thanked her for the donation and added that "We're delighted to have this in our collection!"

The Deposit Flying Club

DHS member Dorothy Wies loaned the museum a copy of the program for the 1950 Third Annual Air Show presented by the Deposit Flying Club. The airport was located near the present Deposit Men's Club on Airport Road. The program provides a very nice history of the founding of the Deposit Flying Club and the development of the airport. The program states:

"On August 4, 1948, the field now used for Deposit's airport was purchased by C. Arthur Stiles from Nelson Stevens. The opportunity to acquire this land came up very unexpectedly and at a time when most of the Deposit pilots were out of town. Since the field was badly needed, Mr. Stiles made this purchase rather than see the opportunity lost and the land sold for other purposes. Mr. Stiles told interested parties, the pilots and plane owners, that the field could be used for airport purposes and could be purchased or leased, as desired. He later gave them a five-year written lease, with no charge made for the first two years except payment of taxes.

During the month of August, 1948, a runway was mowed, some tall trees cut at the north end, a windsock erected, some grading was done, markers put on the power-line poles at the south, and a 1,000-gallon gasoline storage tank was installed.

During September two more planes were purchased by local pilots and on September 12 the Deposit Flying Club was formed with C.E. "Knuckey" Rosencrants as President, LeRoy Davie as Vice-President and Manager, Sarah L. Stiles as Secretary-Treasurer.

It was also in September, 1948, that Frances Wilcox Nolde began making arrangements for an air show on the new field. The date was set for October 10, 1948, and Mrs. Nolde engaged Bevo Howard, the national champion aerobatic flier, Wes Nyce, a wizard with the AT-6, Dave Long with his midget Pea-Shooter, and Dean MacAlpine, parachutist. October 10th was a gala day at Deposit. The air show, complete with fly-overs of military planes, was a distinct success. Financially it did not pay for itself, but Mrs. Nolde footed the entire bill and left the receipts for admissions with the flying club, a most generous send-off.

The field was dedicated as "Stilesport" in memory of the late John M. Stiles, brother of Arthur Stiles. A master blade from a DC-6 was lettered with the date and Mrs. Nolde's name as sponsor was erected in front of the house now known as the "administration building." A beautiful brass plaque was also engraved with the same



data and presented to the club by the Scintilla Magneto Division, of Sidney, New York.

During the Winter of 1948-49 various work was done inside the building, and in the Spring plans were laid for a new and bigger air show. In the meantime a pancake supper was put on to stretch the depleted treasury.

In May, 1949, the club was incorporated and directors appointed to serve until the first annual meeting, and in June Fred Stewart was elected Treasurer.

On August 15, 1949, the second successful air show was staged with an even larger crowd, and this time the venture was a financial success. Mrs. Nolde had previously guaranteed to foot the bill for any losses incurred, and it was doubly satisfying to club members to be able to stand on their own feet.



Bevo Howard again honored Deposit by appearing here, and the remainder of the show was put on by Sky Art Associates, with pilots Moreland and Frutchy.

On August 21, 1949, the club voted to purchase the field from Arthur Stiles at the same price he paid, incurring a debt to be amortized over a period of years. This is one reason the flying club simply must manage to clear several hundred dollars per year to keep its head above water.”

The Deposit Historical Society would like to hear your stories about the Deposit Airport and Flying Club. If you have information about the airport, planes, pilots, we would love to hear from you. In the next issue of the newsletter, we would like to include additional information about this exciting piece of Deposit history. If you have photos and other airport memorabilia you are willing to loan or donate, we would also love to hear from you. A display of airport related artifacts would be an interesting addition to the museum’s offerings for the summer of 2007 or 2008. Please mail or e-mail your stories to Mary Colvard at mcovard@tds.net or 24 Bobolink Court, Deposit, NY 13754.

October Program—Cemetery Art

Marianne Greenfield was the guest speaker for the October 25th meeting. She is an eleven-year member of Gravestone Studies and has taught several adult education classes on the topic. Her presentation for our



meeting dealt specifically with cemetery art. Ms. Greenfield characterized cemeteries as “outdoor living history museums.” The varied designs and captions on markers were both illustrated through a slide show presentation and further described by Ms. Greenfield. She pointed out that many attempts to “clean” gravestones actually cause more harm than good. She made a strong plea for members of



the audience to get involved with the documentation and protection of local cemeteries and the gravestones there, so that a vast amount of art and information is not lost forever. The talk concluded with time for questions

and remarks from the audience, followed by some delicious refreshments provided by Pat O’Donnell and Smitty & Sandy Axtell.

January Mystery of the Month—Oquaga Lake Floating Dock

This month's mystery is a photo scanned from a stereoviewer stereoptic card. On the reverse side of the card, someone wrote *Oquaga Lake*.

Can you identify any of the individuals in the group waiting out the rainstorm? Do you know where on the lake the dock was located? What is the approximate date the photo was taken? Any information you can provide, and Oquaga Lake stories you would like to share, would be appreciated. The stories can be from any time period. I remember that the Lake was THE place Deposit kids wanted to work during the summer. It didn't matter if you were waiting tables, making beds, or caddying.

On a slightly different note, Mr. Robert Hanson donated to the Museum several pieces of wicker furniture that once graced the lobby of Hanson's Hotel. At some point in the future, the furniture will join other pieces of Oquaga Lake history in the Museum collection as part of an expanded Oquaga Lake Room exhibit.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

For this issue, our heartfelt thanks go out to:

- 👍 All of the pie bakers for providing wonderful pies for our Annual Harvest Pie Sale held during Octoberfest. Everyone always looks forward to the homemade goodies provided by our members!
- 👍 Thanks also go out to Elaine Reinhardt, our coordinator, and to the members who helped with the set-up, cleanup, and helping Elaine man the booth.
- 👍 Additional thanks to everyone making monetary donations and/or purchasing our books, maps, postcards, and other items.
- 👍 Some of the September and October Museum "sitters" that welcomed visitors after the publication date of the October newsletter: Kendra & Peder Hansen, Dee & Peter Sollecito, and Trena & Aksel Pedersen.
- 👍 Tim O'Donnell for his efforts restoring the museum's front stone steps and installing stone facing. The new facing really enhances the appearance of the entrance to the museum. Great job Tim!!

October Mystery... Still Unsolved!

The October Mystery of the Month remains a mystery. No one was able to provide us with information about the tollgate, either its location or who was demanding the toll and why. We would still like to hear any ideas you may have regarding the tollgate and its location.



FYI

 Brown's Apothecary Gift Shop is now carrying some of our most popular publications. Other museum gift shop items are always available from the Museum by calling 607-467-4422 or ordering from our website.

 DHS has planned another varied and exciting season for the new year. Visit our website to view the 2007 Calendar of Events.

Time to Renew Your Membership...Be a Card Carrying Member!!

It's that time again folks; January is dues month. Please take a moment right away 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 keep the Museum open and expanding to best serve the community.

*If you aren't a Lifetime member yet, please consider it. It is really a bargain and ends the hassle of joining each year. Dues currently are \$10 regular membership, \$5 for Seniors and Students, and \$50 for a Lifetime membership. Send us your payment today! We have attached a membership/donor form below, 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 @ \$10.00 each

____ Senior Citizen @ \$5.00 each

____ Student @ \$5.00 each

____ Lifetime—one-time payment of \$50.00 per member

I am enclosing a 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:

Pat O'Donnell, 415 Silver Lake Spur, Hancock, NY 13783

Upcoming Events at the Deposit Historical Society...

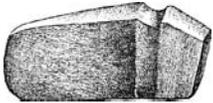
Be sure to check the DHS website for the latest details and updates.



Wednesday, January 24, 2007 6:30 PM Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Supper

Join friends and neighbors for a fun and informative evening. Bring a family-sized dish to pass and table service for supper at 6:30. Coffee and tea will be provided. Stay for a brief annual meeting at 7:30, followed by a Karaoke sing-along.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 7:30 PM Quarterly Meeting and Program: *Indian Artifacts of the Susquehanna Valley*



Presented by Ron McDonough who will discuss tools, projectile points and how the Native Americans in our region lived. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Saturday, May 19, 2007 10 AM through 4:00 PM -- 6th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair

Enjoy a variety of handmade crafts, a bake sale, musical entertainment, and food. We will have more details as we get closer to "Fair time".

Sunday, May 27, 2007 2:00 -- 4:00 PM Museum opens for the 2007 season

Regular hours are Sundays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Research library hours are Tuesdays from 9:30 until noon. Other times by appointment. Admission is free.



Let us know if your address changes...

Moved? If you have an address change to report so you are sure to receive our newsletter, mail it to Mary Colvard at 24 Bobolink Ct., Deposit, NY 13754, or email it to her at mcolvard@tds.net Thanks!

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