



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

**Deposit Historical Society**

**January 2012: Vol IX, Issue i**

The Deposit Historical Society

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Deposit, New York 13754

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Website: [www.deposithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.deposithistoricalsociety.org)

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

## President's Message

Greetings to the membership and friends of the Deposit Historical Society. While it is important to remember all the accomplishments of the past year; it is really more essential to plan ahead in a good orderly direction. Milestones are part of our growth and potential. We saw that during 2011 with changes in programs and participation in the village's bicentennial.

As our monthly board meetings prove the success of volunteerism, the entire "show" of events is run without much difficulty. The coming year has changes also. This is the first time that our Annual Meeting will be held in March. The slate of May through October events is ready to go. Two new board members have been added: Harry Epstein (our new Treasurer) and Terry Raymond. Both have already shown their prowess and have strengths our museum needs.

In August, an auction is planned for fund-raising. New heating and air conditioning for humidity control and preservation of our collections is desperately needed in both buildings. More displays would be possible if our security systems can be updated. Internet capability and outreach education need to be improved with better computers and technical devices. The list could go on without end.

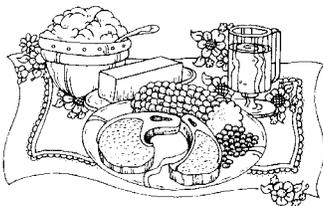
If we work together the Society will uphold it's goal of making life more sociable and suitable for the community to enjoy without paid admission. Welcome to the year of excitement, intrigue and development!

Sincerely,

Richard S. Axtell, President

## March 14th, 6:30 & 7:30 PM: Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Supper

At 6:30 PM join us for a covered dish supper. Please bring a family size dish to share and table service. Coffee and tea will be provided. At 7:30 we will have a short Annual Meeting, followed immediately with musical entertainment by Lauren Floden, a harpist from Sherman, PA. Ms. Floden also works as a portrait artist and photographer.



*Please note that this is a change in our scheduling. Due to several occasions where inclement weather forced cancellation of the January Annual Meeting, we have decided to hold the Annual Meeting in March from now on. There will be no more January meetings.*



## Historical Poems of Deposit

Here is just one of many poems in the book “Historical Poems of Delaware Valley” by Nathan Hilton Faulkner and published in Deposit, April 1933. In the Forward, Mr. Faulkner writes: To the many dwellers of the Delaware Valley, and to others, these poems are submitted with the wish by the writer that the reading of them may help to keep fresh in their memory and that of their children, with due respect, the strenuous efforts of their forbears [*sic*] in clearing away the forests, subduing the Indians, and in many other ways helping to make possible the many beautiful homes that we now enjoy.”



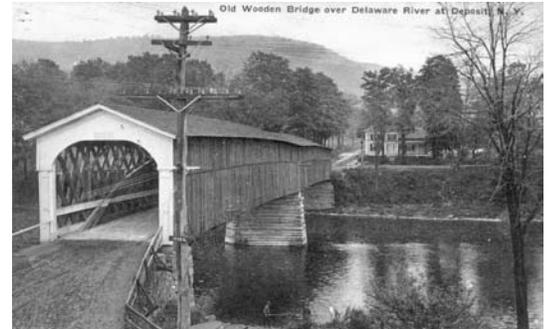
There is a poem dedicated to the “The Brookside Home” that was Mr. Faulkner’s residence. Another poem pays tribute to the “The Growing Village” of Deposit. There is a special photo of the Erie Railroad monument. Mr. Faulkner writes that: “This monument was first placed about one mile East of Deposit, the exact place where the earth was broken for the construction of the Erie R.R. For some reason, it was later removed to a short distance West of the Erie Station. The metallic plate on the monument bears the following inscription.”

“Here on the morning of Nov. 7th, 1835, ground was broken for the construction of the Erie Railroad, designed to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes. It was completed to Lake Erie and publicly celebrated in New York City and along the

route to Dunkirk May 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1851.”

More information from this booklet will be shared in future newsletters.

On the next page is Mr. Faulkner’s poem about the wooden bridge that once spanned the Delaware in the village of Deposit.



### The Old Black Bridge At Deposit

The old black bridge has fallen  
down,

We ne’er shall see it more:  
That long years crossed the  
Delaware

Connecting shore to shore.

Another one has took its place:  
More modern; up to date:  
That in the long, long years to come  
Will share the selfsame fate.

But could the old black bridge arise  
And have the gift of speech,  
What wondrous tales it could relate  
That men told, each to each.

While crossing o’er its broad plank  
drive

Or, gathering at one end,  
To plot ag’in their enemies  
Or speak as friend to friend.

Of enterprises there discussed  
To make the hometown grow;  
Full many a one I ween there were  
In the long years ago.

Of timid maids who late at eve  
Its long dark hall must tread  
With hearts that beat like hammer  
strikes;  
And minds well filled with dread.

Of Romance too it sure must speak:  
Vows, by fond lovers made  
Who walked beneath its covered  
arch  
Or lingered in its shade.

To gaze out from its center pier  
Far up the valley wide:  
Where autumn leaves, red, brown,  
and gold  
Bedecked the mountainside.

Sweet were those days in youth, I  
vow,

When lovers hand in hand  
Walked gaily o’er the old black  
bridge  
Toward then their promised land.

Of trotting horses, jockies too:  
Who vied with each to drive;  
Went swiftly o’er the rattling plank  
To gain the other side.

The Old Fair Ground, a busy place  
Was that in long ago  
When countless rigs crossed o’er  
the bridge  
In haste to the Fair’s show.

continued on next page...

They like the bridge have disappeared:  
 Yet memory brings them back:  
 And listening one ne'er hears the cheers  
 Beside the old racetrack.

A generation nearly gone;  
 Faces we'll see no more  
 Until we cross o'er Jordan's stream  
 And gain the other shore.

But history shall still relate  
 And oft by some be told  
 The doings of those olden days  
 By people brave and bold.

And unto us will ever cling  
 Memories sweet and fair,  
 Of them who crossed the old black bridge  
 Where flows the Delaware.

## From the Research Library: Request for missing programs and books...

After investigating some of the school resources available at the Historical Society, there are many categories that are not complete. It amazed me how the older programs and yearbooks have been donated to the museum while the more recent ones are missing. People need to keep in mind that "today" will soon become "tomorrow" and that people will be searching for ancestors and family members from sources that we now consider recent.

I do not know when Baccalaureate was started or when the name was attributed to the ceremony as there was only one program before 1920 which was for 1892. After 1920, the baccalaureate programs start showing up on a regular basis.

In the early years, there were programs for a Class Night and for a Prize Speaking Contest.

There are not any Moving Up Day programs so any person willing to donate any programs that they have would be most welcome. I wonder if Class Night became Moving Up Day in 1955 and was moved from a night event to a day event?

Alumni dinner programs would also be appreciated. Those have yet to be organized and categorized so I do not know which ones are missing.

It would enhance the collections listed below if people would be willing to donate any of the following:

Deposit yearbooks: 1948, 1972-74, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2006, and 2009.

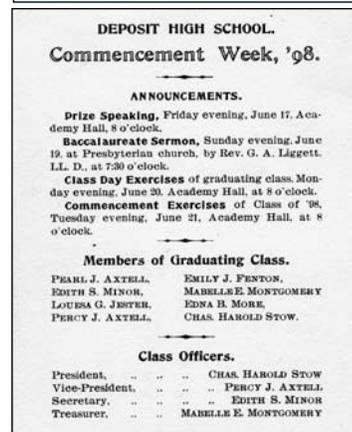
Commencement Programs: 1886, 1894, 1905-09, 1913-17, 1924, 1945, 1951, 1953, 1956-57, 1959-66, 1968-74, 1976, 1978-88, and 1990-2011.

Baccalaureate programs for the following years: 1921-26, 1929-31, 1933, 1940-41, 1943-44, 1948-50, 1952-61, 1963-64, 1966-71, 1973, 1974-2002, and 2004-11.

The Prize Speaking Contest programs start at 1886 and seem to end in 1920. We are missing 1889, 1891, 1895, 1896 1899-1904, and 1911-16.

The Class Night programs start at 1892 and extend into 1955. We are missing 1894, 1896-1901, 1903-10, 1918-19, 1921-23, 1943, 1946, 1951-52, and 1955.

Additionally, there is an incomplete collection of Deposit Phone Books. It would be great if people would be willing to donate any books dated before 1975, along with the following years 1988, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2009-2011. *(Submitted by Rebecca Raymond)*



From the DHS Collection: Both sides of a card included with a graduation announcement for the Deposit Class of 1898

## Mr. F. J. (Buzz) Hesse

Mr. F. J. (Buzz) Hesse presented a highly informative program on the letters and life of Joseph Brant during our quarterly meeting held the evening of October 19, 2011. Mr. Hesse, born and raised in the Unadilla area, graduated from Unadilla High School and SUNY Oneonta. He went to school in Deposit for a while. He is a Fellow of the New York State Archaeological Association and an antique/antiquities dealer



Hesse referring to a book, *Joseph Brant Man of Two Worlds*, written by Isabel Thompson Kelsay

Buzz started his program with the statement, “Sometimes in one’s life. There are wonderful opportunities bestowed upon you.” He was referring to a phone call he received a few years ago from a person near Cobleskill, NY. The individual had just purchased an estate with a lot of historic documents. Many were letters dating from the 18th century. Among these were three from Joseph Brant. One discussed the Cherry Valley massacre. Another was written to the village of Unadilla. At that time, letters were given to a courier and transported by foot from point A to point B.

Joseph Brant, whether you consider him to be famous or infamous, was a remarkable individual. He was born in Ohio during the month of March 1743 near the Cuyahoga River. This is when the Mohawk traveled to that area for hunting. His parents were from

Canajoharie and returned there after Brant’s birth. He died at the age of 64 in November 1807. His Mohawk name was Thayendanegea which means “2 sticks bound together for strength” or “he who places two bets.” His mother was a member of the Wolf Klan. His father died and his mother remarried. His stepfather was a sachem or medicine man and friend of Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent for Northern Indian Affairs. When Johnson visited the Mohawks, he stayed at the Brants’ house in Canajoharie. Brant’s half-sister Molly married Johnson. Johnson took an interest in Joseph and helped with his education. He was formally educated at Moor’s Indian School in Connecticut. This was the forerunner of Dartmouth College which was later established in New Hampshire. Johnson also introduced Brant to influential leaders in the colony. He had been ready to place Brant in King’s College in New York City but Brant’s participation, at the age of 15, in a number of war expeditions changed that. Brant joined an Iroquois war party that attacked Delaware Indian villages in the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys.

Joseph Brant married a woman, Peggy, who had been taken captive by Native Americans. They lived with his parents who passed the house on to Brant after his stepfather’s death. Brant also owned a large farm near Canajoharie. After Peggy died of tuberculosis in 1771, Brant married her half sister, Susanna who died in 1777.

In July 1777 the Six Nations Council decided to enter the Revolutionary War on the British side. Brant was not present. However, earlier he had been made a Mohawk war chief. He engaged in many fierce battles. On November 11, 1778 Brant joined with two companies of Butler’s Rangers led by Captain Walter Butler, son of Colonel John Butler, and Seneca forces in an attack on the village of Cherry Valley. One of the letters Mr. Hesse shared with the audience the evening of his presentation was written by Brant. He wrote that they had “arrived

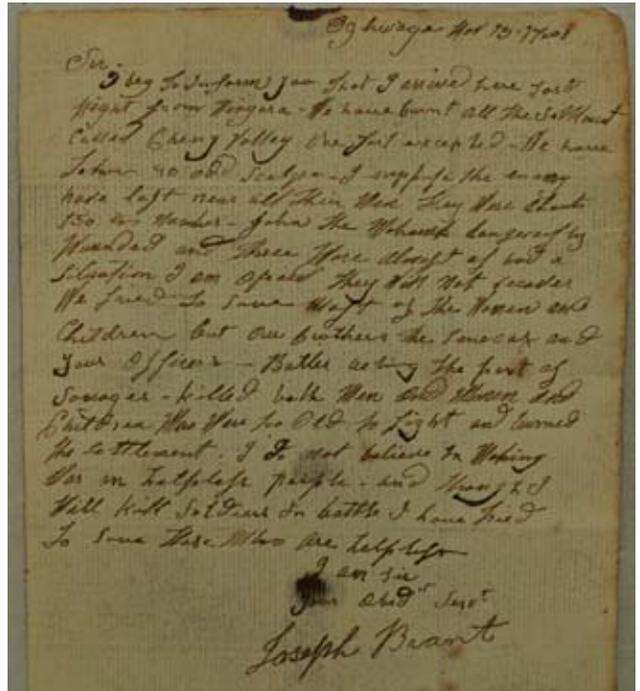


Hesse makes a point to the audience

last night from Fort Niagara” and that they “burnt a settlement Cherry Valley.” He reported taking “40 scalps.” He “tried to save most of the women and children. The Senecas, acting like savages, killed them.” Brant had not been able to stop the Senecas. He was not in favor of the massive killing. It was reported that Butler’s Rangers were not any better behaved than the Senecas.

Another letter, dated April 10, 1780 reflects Brant’s feelings about wanton killing. He wrote that it is “a shame to destroy those who are defenseless.” He stated that he was in favor of saving and releasing.

His history as a Mohawk warrior is well documented. He was awarded a silver medal by the British and at one point traveled to England to visit the queen. He served as a negotiator for the Six Nations. His ambition was to help the Indian survive the transition from one culture to another. His loyalty was first to the Six Nations and then to the British.



The actual letter from Brant that describes the Cherry Valley massacre

## Programs for 2012

Our 2012 programs provide something for everyone! We begin in March with a covered dish supper and entertainment by harpist Lauren Floden. Our April meeting is about John Burroughs, one of Delaware County’s most prestigious figures. The Annual Craft Fair follows in May. Our June program was just finalized, so check our website (events page) for the details. Along with our brown bread, baked bean, and pie sales at the Lumberjack Festival and Octoberfest, we will have an auction in August as a fund-raiser for the Museum. Three additional speakers will fill out the season, which then culminates with the Annual Christmas open house. For more details on any or all of these events please visit our website and click on *Upcoming Events*. We are looking forward to seeing you many times this year!

## Sandy Axtell

The Deposit Historical Society mourns the loss of longtime board member, friend, and treasurer, Sandra Lee Axtell. Sandy died unexpectedly October 14, 2011. We already miss her smile and her participation in our board meetings. Her many contributions to the Historical Society include working at the DHS table during our various sales, helping with DHS auctions, assisting in the design of the annual budget, providing refreshments for our public meetings, and keeping her husband Richard, DHS president, in line! Sandy had a wonderful sense of humor and was quick to give her opinion.

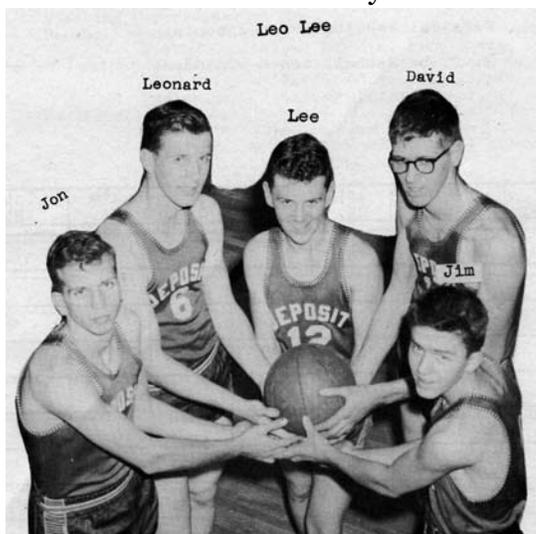
Over their past fifteen years of marriage, Richard and Sandy shared many interests and would always be seen together. In addition to serving on the DHS board, Sandy, an antique dealer herself, worked side-by-side with Richard in their business. They traveled to Ohio, Connecticut and Pennsylvania to name a few states, to participate in antiques shows. Sandy will be sorely missed.



Here are Smitty and Sandy with a Deposit Garden Club Christmas Arrangement they made in December 2006

## Deposit Basketball: 1957 — 1958

While sorting through some documents donated to the Historical Society Museum, I came across a Deposit Lumberjacks High School Basketball schedule for the 1957–58 season. When you open the program, the schedule is on the inside cover. The right hand page features the cheerleaders. They are: Sheila Brown, Marta Brennan, Maria Constable, Jane Parsons, Carol Parsons, Elizabeth Smith, and Frances Jean Dailey—names familiar to many DCHS alums.



Varsity players:  
what are their last names?

Eventually you get to the pages where you could keep score during the game. “John” Carline is one of the coaches. His credentials are listed, including the fact that he attended Oneonta State Teachers College where he played basketball and baseball.

He also attended

Cortland and Albany State Teachers Colleges where he played football. As a student in his junior high math class, I never realized he played semi-pro football 3 years and semi-pro baseball 5 years.

The other basketball coach was “Bill” Potter. He graduated from the University of Rochester where he played basketball for 4 years and participated in track. He was our guidance counselor and husband of DHS’s wonderful librarian, Janet Potter.

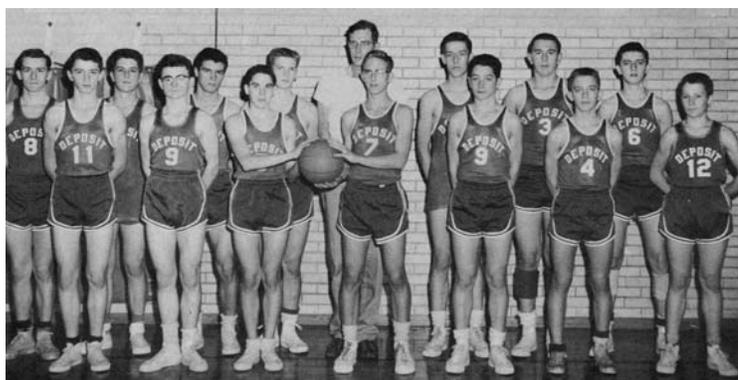
There are individual photos of the varsity players. Their last names are not listed. Maybe some of you can help fill in these missing last names. Members of the team were: Jon, Leonard, Lee, David, Jim, Dick, David, Captain Duke, Dale, Brian, and Don. Perhaps some stories are in order!

Coach Potter’s players are shown with their first and last names: They were: (first row l to r): Dahl Schultz, James Hauber, David Constable, Richard Robertson, Duane Faulkner, Paul Raymond, Thomas Axtell. Second row: Louis Macknik, James Weidman, Ed Van Pelt, Paul Turner, Coach Potter, Raymond Thomas, Roger Rover, and James Hoadley.

On the next page of the program is a photo of the band directed by Mr. Anton Nep.



More varsity players:  
what are their last names?



Coach Potter’s Team

For a DCHS Class of ’64 graduate like me, these are names that bring back many wonderful memories. I also enjoyed reading the names of some of the program sponsors. Included are the likes of “Gips” Restaurant, Judd Hardware Cannonsville, Bassin’s Department Store, Valley Offset, Sunny’s Department Store, C. H. Krause & Son, Mumbulo Motor Sales, Steamers Drycleaners, and more. Bassin’s basement and Sunny’s were the source of great penny candy.

## Annual Christmas Open House

As usual, our Annual Christmas Open House was a great success. The attendees were again treated to great music by the Holdrege family and great refreshments including cookies from the 4-H Club and a really special wassail and other treats made by Becky Dilello. The museum was decorated by volunteers from the Deposit Garden Club and DHS Board. The beautiful tree in the front room was again put up and decorated by Edie and Gordon Tyler. Many who passed by the museum at night could see the tree and its lights through the front window.

Although everyone enjoyed all the music, two highlights that really kept everyone entertained were the singing of *Santa Baby* to John O'Connor (sorry if you missed it!) and *The Twelve Days of Christmas* performance by volunteers from the audience. Some pictures of the occasion are included below...



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### Time to Renew Your Membership??

January is dues month, and if you haven't already renewed, 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 keep the Museum open and expanding to best serve the community. Lifetime members can ignore this reminder!!

Please send us your name and address with a check for the correct amount made out to *Deposit Historical Society*. Please include your phone number and email. These are for OUR use ONLY!

Membership categories are: Regular, \$10 each; Student, \$5 each; Senior citizen, \$5 each; and Lifetime (one time payment), \$50 each member. You may also want to include a tax-deductible donation with your dues payment! Thank you.

**Please mail your dues payment and/or donation to:  
Pat O'Donnell, 415 Silver Lake Spur, Hancock, NY 13783**

## Upcoming Events (March through May) at the Deposit Historical Society...

*Be sure to check the DHS web site for the latest details and updates.*

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:30 & 7:30 PM: Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Supper.**

Entertainment by harpist Lauren Floden. For more details, see article on page 1 of this newsletter.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012 7:30 PM: The Life and Legacy of John Burroughs, Literary Naturalist**

Author Diane Galusha returns with another fascinating program in celebration of Burroughs' 75th birthday. Join us to learn more about this Delaware County native and his fascinating life.



John Burroughs

**Saturday, May 12, 2012 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM: 11th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair**

Enjoy a variety of special crafters, delicious food, plants for sale and more at this great event. Musical entertainment from 11 AM to 1 PM. Something fun for everyone!

**Sunday, May 27, 2012, (Memorial Day Sunday) 2:00 to 4:00 PM: Museum Opens for the 2012 season.**

Regular hours are 2 to 4:00 PM on Thursdays and Sundays through Columbus Day Sunday. Visit one of Delaware County's finest museums. Experience Deposit's varied history and view our many exhibits. Free Admission!



### ***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!!

**The Deposit Historical Society Newsletter**

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**13754**