



DHS News

The Official Newsletter
of the

Deposit Historical Society

April 2010: Vol VII, Issue ii

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!

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Those of us interested in historical things are always looking back to what came before us. It is always nice to learn of things from our past and how they have undergone changes over time. It is also fun to look forward in anticipation of what is to come.

The Historical Society is currently looking forward to the programs and events of this year. When the Museum officially opens in May, visitors will be able to view a new exhibit in the bank room featuring books and toys that children of years past read and played with.

We are also looking forward to our evening programs, which will cover a range of topics including local CCC camps, Mormonism's roots in our area, and a living history program dealing with the Civil War. You can visit our website (top of this page) to see the entire list of events we are planning for the benefit and enjoyment of the public in our community and others living nearby.

We hope to see many of you at these evening programs, at our 9th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair, and at our booth downtown for both the Lumberjack Festival and Octoberfest. AND, we are especially looking forward to having volunteers to help us in any way they can, from being "sitters" at the Museum to providing help with maintenance projects, and supplying refreshments for meetings, and those delicious baked beans, brown bread and home-baked pies for our fund raising projects.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Axtell, President

April Meeting: *The Good Old Days in Hale Eddy*

Join us on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:30 PM when Hale Eddy natives Lillian Darling and Keith Albee share stories, memories and photographs of life in Hale Eddy over the years. Anyone else interested in sharing recollections is encouraged to participate.

*Please note the change in meeting date: this meeting is being held on a **Tuesday** evening.*



One-time Hale Eddy R.R. Station

January Annual Meeting

On January 27th, the Deposit Historical Society met in the Oquaga Room for its annual meeting, pot-luck dinner, and program. Tim Duerden provided a very interesting talk on the early days of Delaware County. Mr. Duerden is an adjunct professor at SUNY Delhi and has been the Director of the Delaware County Historical Association for the past seven years. A native of England, Tim now calls Franklin his home. He is a graduate of SUNY Plattsburg and Temple University. He authored the book "A History of Delaware County, New York-A Catskill Land and its People 1797 -2007."

According to Mr. Duerden, after the Revolutionary War, newcomers occupied land granted them by the State as a reward for service during the war. The new arrivals generally followed the river valleys, trails blazed by Native Americans, and marks on trees made by earlier settlers. Lowlands provided easier clearing.

Under Governor George Clinton, these new arrivals to our area primarily came from the Old World – they were of Scotch, Scotch-Irish, and German roots. The Hardenburgh Patent, granted by Queen Anne in 1780, became half of what is now Delaware County. The Frisbee is now Delhi. Their home is now part of the Delaware Historical Association. It was in the mid 1790's, that the State Legislature named the region Delaware County.



The pot-luck dinner in progress.

Rafting became the link to markets downstream.

Turnpikes were built for east - west travel. Plank roads made of hewn timbers layered with sand were called the "super highways" of the 1840's. Eventually railroads and paved roads replaced rafting. Ground breaking for the New York and Erie railroad took place on November 7, 1835. The Erie had depots in both Deposit and Hancock. Other railroads doing business in the county were: the O&W, the U&D, the D&E, and the D&N. Many Europeans came to the area to work on and maintain the railroads.



Goods were produced in homes or by artisans. Flax, wool, maple products, tannic acid, potash, and honey were major products during this era in Delaware County history. Nineteenth century gristmills and saw mills were water powered. Distilled grains produced thousands of barrels of whiskey. The communities of Franklin and Treadwell were known for their distilleries. Treadwell was called "Jug City." Hemlocks provided bark for the tanning industry. Tanning using hemlock was replaced by chemical tanning circa 1900. Acid factories were found in the southern part of Delaware County. Using technology from Scotland, wood alcohol and chemicals used in the manufacture of woolen cloth were produced. Corbett Bros. had the largest acid factory in Delaware County. The Treyz family operated the last

acid factory in the county in Horton. The late Louise (Merritt) Hartz of Deposit was a Treyz.

The rough topography of Delaware County and the immigration of Scots gave rise to raising sheep and the wool industry. In 1850, there were four times as many sheep as people. Bluestone was

found in flat layers beneath the surface of the earth, giving rise to quarrying. At one time, Hancock had 20 quarries.

With the clearing of land, the dairy industry began. The county was known for the superior quality of its butter. Early on, wagons carried butter on turnpikes to the Hudson River. With the arrival of railroads, milk was shipped daily to New York City. Blocks of ice harvested from lakes and rivers during the winter, provided refrigeration. Creameries grew along the railroads. In 1892 Sheffield Farms in Bloomville built the first commercial pasteurization plant in the United States. The creamery era ended with the bulk milk tankers transporting milk to cities.



Duerden with his book.

The boom in tourism in the Catskills began as paved four lane roads with access ramps were constructed. The interstate route began at Goshen and met route 81 (also known as route 17) at Binghamton. Tourism also grew with train service to upscale hotels in the “Borscht Belt” and also into Stamford, and Fleishmann. Many visitors also stayed the entire summer at Oquaga Lake. Ray Scott transported guests from the Erie Depot, in Deposit, to Scott’s on Oquaga Lake.

New York City’s quest for water resulted in the construction of several reservoirs. Two are in Delaware County -the Cannonsville Reservoir and the Pepacton. With the construction of the Cannonsville Dam, several small communities lost everything they had by “eminent domain.” Cannonsville had its last Old Home Day on July 4, 1956. Their homes, stores, farms, and churches were only part of the loss.

Tim Duerden’s book is available at the Delaware County Historical Association. The book is part of Deposit’s history, too. We thank Tim for sharing his knowledge with us and for agreeing to provide the Deposit Historical Society with a wonderful program on a cold winter’s evening.

Looking for Acorns



The Deposit Historical Society and the Deposit High School Library have partnered in an effort to complete their respective collections of ACORNS, the Deposit High School yearbook. Both collections have duplicates of some years and lack other years.

Recently Kay Hoban of the Deposit Historical Society and Phyllis Sanford, the Deposit High School librarian, met and traded issues from their inventories of duplicates. However, there are still gaps in our collections. We hope someone out there can help us to complete our collections.

You can send the needed yearbook(s) to Deposit Historical Society, 145 Second St., Deposit, NY 13754, or call (607) 467-4422 and we will arrange for someone to come to your home to pick up the yearbook(s).

The Historical Society is still looking for:

1948*	1962*	1972	1973*	1974	1976*
1982*	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999
2000	2001	2003	2004	2006	

* missing from both collections

Calling All Cooks and Bakers



DHS will be publishing a cookbook in the near future. We are looking for “vintage” recipes as well as some of your family favorites. We are hopeful that many of our members will participate by submitting recipes for this project. You may submit as many recipes as you wish. However, the selections of those that will appear in the final publication are at the discretion of the committee.

Please include the following information with your submissions:

- recipe name
- your name and phone number and/or email address in case we have any questions. (This information will not be published...only your name as a contributor will be included with the recipe.)
- ingredients
- directions

We would love it if you would include a short history for each recipe. For example, you could share that the recipe belonged to your grandmother from...; that it was always served for...; it was something my kids always asked for...; or that it is family favorite...; and so on. You can also include a photograph of your final masterpiece!



Recipes may be emailed to Mary Colvard at mcolvard@tds.net. Or, you can do it the old fashioned way and mail your submission to Mary Colvard, 24 Bobolink Ct., Deposit, NY 13754.

We are very excited about this project. It should provide all of us with many great, tried and true recipes and serve as a fund raiser for the museum. We look forward to hearing from you.

Note: we cannot return recipes, but photos can be returned upon request.

Deposit Cigar Companies



In the early days of Deposit, the manufacture of cigars was big business. C. A. Heinle owned and operated one of the first, the Deposit Cigar Company. He had a combined grocery and cigar manufacturing business on Front Street located between Court Street and the bank. According to an article in the November 30, 1880 edition of the Courier, “The Deposit

Cigar Company is doing a prosperous business. It has about 30 customers in the city of Binghamton which must be considered complimentary to the quality of its goods.” At that time, Binghamton was a cigar making center.

In early July of 1899, W. H. Beck of Windsor moved his cigar manufacturing business to the Gallagher Building in Deposit. By the middle of July, he had already employed about a dozen workmen. At first he produced cigars bearing the C.P.K brand. In August he added a new brand, S. D. S. cigars. These

were available for a nickel each at Smith's Drug Store. By November of 1899, Beck had a traveling salesman. In January of 1900, he put a new wagon on the road. Business flourished. During February of 1900 he sold 70,000 cigars and by March he employed more than 20 men. In April he moved his business to larger quarters in the Oquaga Block. Even though he employed a total of 32 men at this point, orders still exceeded production. In March of 1903, a fire destroyed the entire Oquaga Block. In April of the same year, Mr. Beck purchased a lot on Fourth Street. He was able to move into his new two-story structure in May. Mr. Beck's cigar business continued to prosper until the spring of 1909 when the Knapp Bank failed resulting in Mr. Beck's bankruptcy. His factory building eventually became the American Legion Hall.

In September of 1909, F. D. Wilcox and John E. Russell purchased the contents of Beck's cigar factory. These two gentlemen combined their two separate cigar manufacturing businesses. At the time, Mr. Russell was manufacturing cigars on Church Street. He had moved his business there from an earlier location over Brown's Drug Store. Mr. Wilcox purchased half interest in Russell's Church Street factory in December of 1909. In July of 1910, Mr. Wilcox purchased the Beck factory on Fourth Street. Then in May of 1911, Wilcox sold his interest in the business to Russell. However, Mr. Wilcox did not sell the Beck building along with his share in the business. Consequently, Mr. Russell moved to the Folkey Building on Front Street.



A cigar mold showing top and bottom halves.

Others also opened cigar manufacturing businesses in Deposit. John Hayes manufactured his cigars in the Halpin Building and in a shop adjoining L.A. Male's store on Church Street. In 1906 he moved his business to a new location over Donovan's Pool Parlor on Front Street. In 1896 George Keays was selling handmade cigars. He operated out of the post office building. When he moved his business to Hancock in 1904, the Courier wrote, "His friends here recommend him to the smokers of Hancock. He rolls a comfortable weed."

Mrs. Charles MacCulloch reported in the May 6, 1965 edition of the Courier that molds, cutting boards, labels, tobacco and many more items associated with the cigar business were discovered when the building next the bank was demolished that winter. She wrote that all of these items "remained in a good state of preservation, in spite of an accumulation of more than 40 years of dirt and grime...plain evidence of what was once one of Deposit's busy industries."

Queen of the Delaware, Erie Pay Car, Dorothy Dare, and White Rose are just a few of the fine cigars manufactured in Deposit, NY. To see some of the wooden cigar molds and other implements used in the manufacture of these cigars, visit the Deposit Historical Society Museum. Several artifacts related to the cigar manufacture during that era are on display.

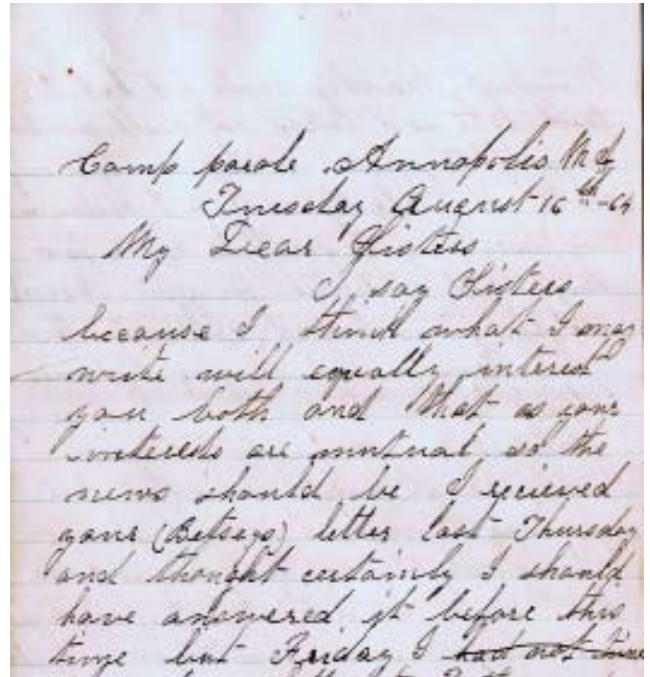
Civil War Letters From Local Union Soldier Available On Disc

The Deposit Historical Society has just completed the preservation of letters written during the Civil War era – most of them written from the battlefields by Edgar G. Ogden.

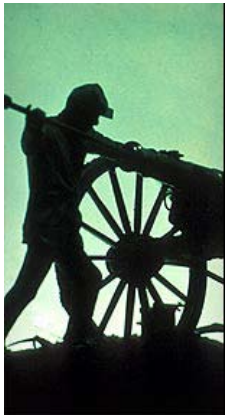
Civil War and local history buffs can read the letters at the Historical Society Library or purchase them on disc for \$50, handling and postage included. The purchaser will receive a binder with three discs, a hard copy of the introductory material, a hard copy of a brief outline of each letter, and a hard copy of a sample letter.

Edgar G. Ogden's beautiful letters to his sister Betsy and her husband John Smith poignantly discuss the losses his unit incurred and his experiences living and fighting with soldiers from other places and from very different backgrounds. In letter #22, he mourns the death of his good friend, G. W. Boyd, during a bloody battle. In another, he talks of the death of Lafayette Axtell and his friendship with John Axtell.

Relatives of Ogden penned some of the letters and they provide a broader picture of life during the mid nineteenth century. In addition to the many nationally significant references, many local surnames are mentioned including Smith and Hathaway.



Part of one of the scanned letters.



Ann Smith Levatich donated the letters and Theodora Hathaway Cole, Great Granddaughter of Ogden, funded the conservation of the letters. Although fragile, they were stable enough to scan, copy, and preserve. The reader/researcher will get the sense of looking at the true originals whether leafing through the copies or viewing them using the discs.

Kay Hoban, conservator of the letters, would be pleased to provide additional information. Contact her through the Historical Society by regular mail, email (please put Civil War letters att: Kay on the subject line) or by phone. To order the discs send a \$50 check or money order to the Deposit Historical Society, 145 Second St., Deposit, NY 13754.

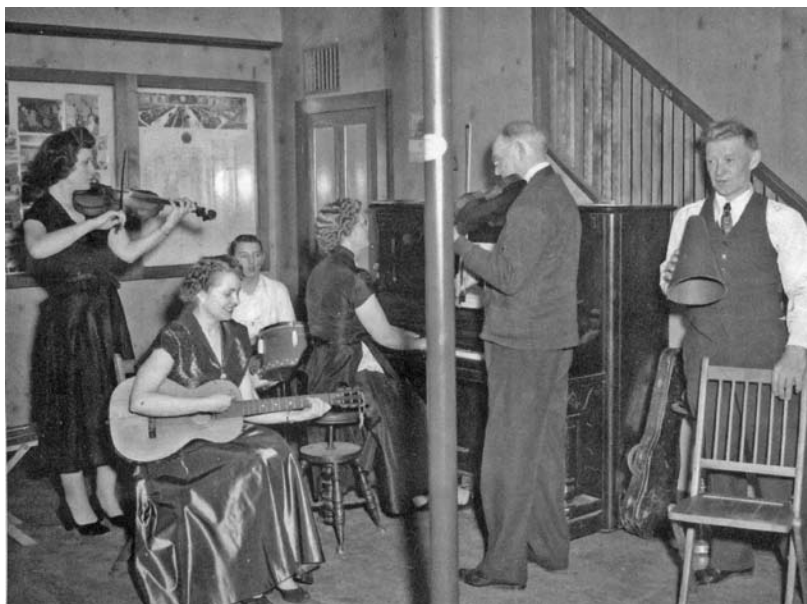
Please Get Involved With Your Museum

As we begin a new season and welcome visitors to enjoy our wonderful museum buildings, we need your help! Sundays and Thursdays from 2--4 we need sitters to open the museum and greet visitors. Even volunteering for one afternoon would be of great help. No experience necessary! Also, when we have programs, refreshments are needed (homemade or store-bought goodies would be fine). Please call 467-4422 and lend a hand. You'll be glad you did!!

HELP!

January Mystery Photo Revisited

We have received a few positive identifications of the folks in the photo. Lillian Darling is playing the guitar. Craig Starbird is the gentleman on drums in the back and Mildred Hotaling is playing the piano. Someone out there must know who the other individuals are! It was also confirmed that the setting is the Deposit VFW. Does anyone know what the event might have been? If you can add to the history of the photo, please send the information along to us. We'll share with everyone in the next issue of the newsletter.



Reminder to Renew Your Membership!!

January WAS dues month, and if you haven't already renewed, 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. Lifetime members can ignore this reminder!!

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 \$10 regular membership, \$5 for Seniors and Students, and \$50 for a Lifetime membership. Send us your payment today! 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 @ \$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 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:

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

Upcoming Events (April through June) at the Deposit Historical Society...

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



Tuesday, April 20, 2010 7:30 PM: *The Good Old Days in Hale Eddy.*

See page 1 of this newsletter for details...

May 22, 2010 10AM - 3:00 PM: *The 9th Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair.*

Lots of great craft vendors, delicious food and musical entertainment. Something for everyone!! It is not too late to sign on as a vendor... if interested call 607 467-4444 for information

May 30, 2010 2:00 - 4:00 PM: *Museum officially opens for the season.*

Hours are Thursdays and Sundays from 2 -- 4 PM.

June 16, 2010 7:30 PM: *Another Day, Another Dollar.*

Diane Galusha, well known author and speaker will present a program about the subject of her latest book: the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps and local involvement in their projects.

For a complete calendar of events for the year, visit our website.

Note: Our research library (rear entrance to Bundy building is open on Tuesdays from 9 AM until noon.



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 or jbartsch@tds.net. We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!

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