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

President’s Message
Not so long ago (231 years to be exact) Deposit or Cookhouse Village, as we came to know it, was unheard of by name. Our forefathers were busily and faithfully working to create a free society for all men created equal. This part of the world was virtually unknown “Wild Indian” territory. Not many adventurists or settlers had ventured this far west from the eastern settlements of Connecticut or Massachusetts to found a wilderness that would turn out to be our homeland and future historic valley where “nature blesses, there man progresses”.

Time goes by so quickly that events take place and we hardly even give credit to the fact. Deposit is indeed blessed by many factors to make a rich heritage come true. Our settlers arrived from other parts of the U.S. from 1786-2007. Yes, 2007 and growing. The influx of the new and the sometimes younger generation has always played a big part in our growth. That fact can be seen in the endless possibilities available right here in Deposit.

As an historical group, we are on the threshold of a frontier open to everyone. With the near completion of The Dr. O. T. Bundy House Museum, the printing of “Passing the Time, with Vic”, the research lab and library on it’s way; that campaign for culturization is on it’s way. I encourage each of you to get involved in the future and pledge your interest and support for the upcoming expansion of our Museum Complex.

Look for increased public programs this season. Enjoy the new exhibits and displays. Welcome to everyone

Richard S. Axtell   President

• • •  July Meeting: Rough Riders from Troop C • • •

Speaker, Louis Palombo will share information about a unique group of New York State Troopers. Polumbo will entertain the audience with stories, pictures, and film footage of the “Rough Riders” of the Troop C N.Y State Police based in Sidney.

Troop C was one of six state police units in New York State created in 1921 to provide rural police coverage in a ten county area. Fifty four men, including the troop’s first commander and legendary police hero, Captain Daniel E. Fox, mounted specially trained horses, providing law and order throughout the Southern Tier and Catskill region.

Troop C began competing in annual horsemanship shows. Captain Fox selected a group of horsemen and formed what was to become the famous “Rough Riders”. Originally known as the Spotted Horse troop because of the pinto horses they rode, these daring trick riders appeared in parades, county fairs and exhibitions including Madison Square Garden and New York State horse shows. For many years the “Rough Riders” entertained thousands of children at orphanages and hospitals.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Be sure to join us for a great evening!!
“Letters to the Editor” about Mysteries Past...

It seems that the location of the idyllic white house and attractive couple shown in the April Mystery photo will remain a secret of the past. Several DHS members provided feedback but no one was certain about the location and the people. Charles Brown wrote, “I’ve tried hard, but I can’t remember any place in Deposit, in those years, where there were houses with fences on the opposite sides of the street. There might have been, on lower Pine or Wheeler Street, but I don’t think so. My guess is that the picture is from an earlier time.” To provide a reference point for his comments, Mr. Brown reported that he would soon be turning 90.

Stuart Wilson wrote, “I believe it’s a photo of the Steinman’s house, on Pine St., just south of what is now S&S Garage and parking lot. We are looking in a westerly direction across Pine St. I visited there when I was in grade school. Sunny (Albert) Steinman was a friend.” Mr. Wilson added, “The Steinman’s were our neighbors on 3rd St. in the early 20’s. They moved to their Pine St. house maybe in 1921 or 22. The photo may predate that.”

Randall Briggs shared his ideas regarding the location of the April 2006 pond and dam mystery photo. Mr. Briggs wrote, “Could it be the left hand end of the Stilesville dam (as you look downstream) before the years of ice jams took it out? I don’t remember a building there, but then, the picture was before 1910, and I was born only a few months before Lyle Brown.* I do remember there was an outlet from the dam leading to a channel to the electricity generating plant below the house called Lone Pine (still there). (Could some of the structure be related to flow control?) We called that channel a binnacle (so I thought it was spelled), later finding that our word was probably a mild oral corruption of the Dutch binnekill. I remember seeing the concrete foundation of the hydroelectric plant, with one (maybe two) large circular concrete pits which I assume led the water down to the generators.”

“When I was growing up, the Stilesville dam was essentially gone, but I could walk across the river there on the stone filling and the remains of the wood structure to visit the Van Valkenburghs.”

*Lyle Brown was born in Deposit in 1922. Several excerpts from his book, Growing Up… As I Remember It, have appeared in the DHS Newsletter.
Historical Society Receives Grant

The Deposit Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the Kenneth M. Axtell, Jr. Foundation for $1,400 for the restoration of photos from 140 glass plate negatives donated by Ann Levatich. The negatives are the work of her relative, Anthony W. Knapp and depict such early Deposit scenes as Woods Lake (Oquaga?), Lenape Camp, the Knapp Home, a dog named Ray, and much more.

Ray Hunt, John Bartsch, and Mary Colvard are working with Ann’s generous contribution to preserve this piece of Deposit history. All of the slides will be scanned, then restored and saved in digital format. Photo prints will then be made which will be displayed for all to enjoy. As the work progresses, more information will be provided in future newsletters and on the Historical Society website.

Do You Remember Western Auto??

Sallie Buchanan Atkin loved the bicycle her parents, Justin and Isabelle Buchanan, bought for her from Hess’s Western Auto. Each summer Sallie and the bike made many trips from Allen Street, down Fourth Street, and onward to the social hub of town—the swimming pool. It was much easier to sail down the back streets on the way there than to pedal back up later, but that didn’t matter. It would have been quicker to travel Second Street, which was then Route 17, but parents pretty unanimously forbid that since traffic was heavy and there were many trucks.

Sallie has generously donated her 1950’s Western Flyer to the Museum. It is in parade-ready condition! Sallie recalls the requisite crepe paper streamers and the playing cards affixed to the frame with clothespins so the cards would rub against the spokes to make that memorable clicking sound that all the kids thought was VERY impressive!

Please share your memories of the Western Auto store and/or bicycling through town. I can still see all of the shiny, new bikes sitting out in front of the store beckoning kids with the promise of speed and freedom!

Please send stories and/or scans of your photos to mcolvard@tds.net. If you have a photo or two, an old advertisement, or other material that relates to this topic that you are willing to donate, please let us know. Thank you.

WANTED:

• Volunteers to sit at the Museum for a two hour period on either a Thursday or a Sunday.
• No experience necessary, no knowledge of the Museum needed
• The only qualification is that you must have a desire to help your Historical Society and make it possible for others to visit the Museum and enjoy Deposit’s rich history.

Please call Becky @ 467-2994 or the Museum @ 467-4422 and leave a message.

WE NEED YOU!!

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WE NEED YOU!!
Indian Artifacts Program

At the Historical Society Quarterly Meeting in April, Ron McDonough provided DHS members with an extremely informative presentation on Native Americans inhabiting this region of New York State.

Ron shared with us that Paleoindians used the major waterways in our area for travel. Consequently, most settlements were on rivers with the larger settlements typically located just above the flood plain near the junctions of streams and rivers. Crops were planted in the flood plain.

Native Americans moved into our region about 1200 years ago. Prior to that, this area was under ice. The Algonquians arrived first and were followed by the Iroquois. Initially they made hunting excursions into the area. They dug storage pits 4 to 6 feet deep in the ground to keep food cool. When the pits became infested with mold or rodents, they were used for garbage or, during the winter months, burial.

Mr. McDonough illustrated his talk with an impressive collection of artifacts. He related that most hunting was done with projectile points and that the majority of these were not associated with arrows. The bow and arrow did not reach the Northeast until about 700 AD. It was the smaller points in his collection that Ron referred to as “arrowheads.” Because they penetrated better than the larger points, these smaller arrowheads were typically used against each other and not for hunting game! Arrowheads were usually made from chert or flint and the shafts from oak or maple. It took about 15 minutes to make an arrowhead.

In addition to projectile points, Ron’s collection contains a number of stones that were once part of tomahawks. Tomahawks were a British invention. He also shared with us how to identify chopping stones by their scalloped edges. He assured the youngsters in the audience that with a little patience and knowledge, all of this stoneware is relatively easy to find. Native Americans in our region left many items behind when moving. This was done on purpose because they would be coming back. This is why it is possible to sometimes find a large cache.

The men hunted and fished and made the points. Women basically ran things and did most of the work. Everyone planted. Men broke the sod. Older members of the community, women, and children planted the seeds.

All of Ron’s materials come from the Susquehanna Valley area including Sidney, Bainbridge, and Unadilla. His collection consists only of surface finds. It is illegal to dig for artifacts in a stratified area. If on the surface, he explained, “much of the ‘provenance’ or historical value has been lost.” He showed everyone some of the fine piecework done by the women. There were examples of drilled beads and beveled fringe ornaments. Pottery was made of clay obtained from the river. It was molded and then rope was used to hold it together. The pottery was fired from the outside. This caused the pots to have a dark outer surface.

At the conclusion of his talk, Ron invited everyone to come up to the front table and examine his collection more closely. It was a real treat for both the children and the adults to be able to handle some of the artifacts and ask still more questions!
The Deposit Flying Club...Part II

The 1950 Deposit Air Show Program briefly describes the incorporation of the Deposit Airport. Many familiar names appear in the list of officers and directors:

“On September 11, 1949 C. E. Rosencrants was elected President. Other officers included: Vice-President and manager, LeRoy J. Davie; Assistant Manager, Milton Menhennett; Secretary, Sarah L. Stiles; Treasurer, Fred R. Stewart. Directors were elected as follows: For three years: James J. Miller, C. E. Rosencrants, Sarah L. Stiles; for two years: LeRoy J. Davie, Milton E. Menhennett, Alvah Chandler; for one year: James Morrison, Fred R. Stewart, J. Edward Smith. (Since then William Rinker has been elected to fill the vacancy of Fred R. Stewart, and Sarah L. Stiles re-appointed Treasurer...)

“...Late in the Fall of 1949 an addition was built on the hangar.

Soon after that plans were made for a 1950 air show…”

A very important person in making the air show a reality was Frances Wilcox Nolde. Remember from the January DHS Newsletter article on the air show that she had guaranteed to foot the bill for any losses incurred by the air show. The following tribute, along with her photo, appeared in the 1950 air show program:

FRANCES WILCOX NOLDE

To whom we gratefully dedicate the 1950 Deposit air show.

Frances Wilcox Nolde, now of Reading, Pennsylvania, still has a warm spot in her heart for her hometown, Deposit, New York. To the “old-timers” at Deposit Mrs. Nolde is remembered as one of the beautiful daughters of Fred Wilcox, who was known far and wide as a dealer and owner of horses, a sportsman, and to the writer’s own memory, one of the nicest and most gentlemanly of men in Deposit.

When Frances Nolde becomes interested in something that something immediately gets a boost, and a continuous one. She started flying in 1941—and has no intentions of stopping. Her first plane was a Piper Cub-Coupe. In 1942 she obtained a commercial pilot’s license and a new Coupe. Later she owned a Fairchild 24 and since then, two Navions.

During the war years she was “Line Dispatcher” for the Cadet Training Program under War Training Service. She operated the Courier Service at Reading, Pa., for the Civil Air Patrol in which she held the rank of Captain. In the meantime she flew cargo and war industry personnel.
In 1948 Mrs. Nolde took first place in the Trans-Continental All Woman's Air Race from Los Angeles to Miami. In 1949, accompanied in her Navion by Violet Delp, of Lancaster, Pa., she placed third in the first International All Woman's Air Race from Montreal to Miami.

At present she is Public Relations Director for Reading Air Service and also a ferry pilot. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Reading Municipal Airport Commission and first assistant to the Manager of the airport. During Pennsylvania Aviation Week activities in June 1950, a framed resolution of commendation from city council was presented to her by Mayor Davis, of Reading, Pa.

Mrs. Nolde is a member of the Board of Directors of the N.A.A. (National Aeronautics Association) and was 1950 Contest Chairman of the Ninety Nines Air Show in Miami, and N.A.A. representative at the air show.

If all this sounds as though Frances Nolde were a busy person, remember that she manages a charming home and family, too. All of which goes to prove that the busiest people get the most done. And our hats are off to you, Frances Wilcox Nolde!

Old Time Folk and Craft Fair

Although the weather could have been better, it could have also been a lot worse! Throughout the day there was a really good turnout, making the vendors happy! Thanks go to the DHS Board members who took care of setting up, both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

The Deposit Garden Club was a new presence this year, offering many plants for sale and holding several raffles as well. The food concession was also very popular—cool weather makes people hungry! Thanks go out to all of the vendors and all of those who attended, making the event a big success once again!

Plans are already in the works for next year's event. Contact Becky at 467-2994 if you are interested in participating as a crafter or vendor.

Thanks:

- to Deposit Garden Club for once again enhancing the front of the museum with beautiful planters and landscaping.
- to Scotts Hotel for a delightful evening of musical entertainment enjoyed by our Board members.
- to Barb Cecala for printing a new “Welcome” sign for the Bank Room.
**Passing the Time with “Vic” Goes on Sale!!**

The publication that many have been waiting for is finally here! The many, many hours of work by Historical Society Board Members Kay Hoban and Ellen Jogo have finally borne fruit. The book, *Passing the Time with Vic*, is now available for sale at the Museum and by mail order through the DHS website. Both hard-bound and softcover versions are available.

We still have a copy for you—be sure to get it soon!

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**The Anti-Rent Wars of Delaware and Neighboring Counties**

Author, Dorothy Kubik presented a most informative program on the Anti-rent Wars in New York State, on June 27th at The Historical Society. Many of those in attendance were surprised to learn about this struggle that went on against a feudal-like system of land allocation.

Starting with the Dutch East India Company and the Patroons of Albany and Rensselaer Counties, land was only owned by a wealthy few who would rent out parcels of about 160 acres. The renters could never buy or own the land; and the timber, water, and mineral rights stayed with the landowner. Consequently there was little incentive to develop the land for yourself or for your children. Rents were collected, either as cash, livestock, or working for the landowner. The system spread from Albany County through Schoharie and eventually to Delaware County. The anti-rent uprising started as a result of disputes over who actually owned some of the land. Anti-renters dressed in costumes to disguise their identities, and communicated the approach of posses who were taking their livestock for sale to pay the rents. Large horns were used for such communication (see picture). The rental system eventually faded out as renters became more involved in political processes. It was a very informative evening for all in attendance.

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**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 jbartsh@tds.net. We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!
Upcoming Events at the Deposit Historical Society…

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

Saturday, July 21, 2007  9:00 AM through 3:00 PM – Baked Bean and Brown Bread Sale at the Lumberjack Festival.
Stop by our booth to get some delicious home-baked food and museum gift shop items.

Wednesday, July 25, 2007  7:30 PM Quarterly Meeting and Program: The Troop C Rough Riders
Speaker Louis Palombo’s presentation will include some actual film footage of these trick riders! Don’t miss it! For more details, see the article on page 1 of this newsletter.

Wednesday, August 22, 2007  7:30 PM – Dorflinger Glass Program
Hank Lofthus, curator of the Dorflinger Glass Museum will share his vast knowledge of glassmaking. Dorflinger Glass supplied blanks for Deposit’s cut glass factory.

Wednesday, September 26, 2007  7:30 PM – New York’s First Electric Trolley Program
Susan Sherwood will present this interesting program about the first electric trolley.

Sunday, October 7, 2007  10:00 AM through 3:00 PM – Harvest Pie Sale at Octoberfest.
Be sure to write this date on your calendar and arrive early to purchase your favorite homemade pies. This will also be the last day of the season to tour the Museum. It will be open from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

The Deposit Historical Society
145 Second Street
Deposit, NY
13754