



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!

President's Message: A SOLDIER'S STORY

I was born September 15, 1763 in German Flats, Mohawk Valley, NY of rugged German 2nd generation parents. I was christened in the Dutch Reform Church KONRAD ITTIG. I had a younger brother Christian who would follow me a few years later.

By 1779 I was mustered into the NY Regiment fighting for American independence. I fought well and hard dodging many mini-balls. Skirmishes between the Indians, the red coat British and us were intense and no doubt dangerous. By the year 1786 I left the army honorably with the rank of Captain. That status would later serve me well at near the end of my life by giving some much needed monetary support.

In the early spring of 1786 I traveled south by horseback to an area about 10 miles from the Pennsylvania border looking for unclaimed territory on which to settle and start a family. I found employment with a Jesse Dickerson who was surveying and plotting a small rural village along the fertile banks of the Delaware River. This was appropriately named "Dickinson City". I lived there about a year when the other side of the fence looked greener and more promising. The Delaware River was easy to navigate so an old birch bark Indian canoe carried me and my rudimentary worldly goods downstream to the "Little Cookhouse" where I secured employment with Squire Whitaker from Connecticut.

He had the fortunate opportunity to acquire over 1000 acres of tree covered land mostly along the river. He also had a beautiful young daughter, Margaret Whitaker, to whom I became betrothed and married in 1787. We both wore moccasins and dressed in homespun clothing. The wedding took place under the "upturned roots" of a massive hemlock tree. The trees in the 18th C. were truly giants 135- 200 feet tall and with mammoth girths. The land was almost entirely blanketed with them. An impressive sight to a young forward looking entrepreneur.

By the following year my bride and I had started a family. We moved upstream 2 1/2 miles as the crow flies to an Indian village named Cookhouse by the white man. There with the help of my father-in-law I was able to secure all the land East of the River (up to what is now Stilesville). I lived there until 1802 when a home became available on the West side of the river.

Continued on page 2...

July 20th Meeting

Gloria McCullough and Ann O'Hara of the Wayne county Historical Society will present *Rafting and Lumbering on the Delaware* at 7:30 P.M. You won't want to miss this interesting presentation of historic activities in the Deposit area. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.



President's Message continued...

In the meantime my dear sweet wife Margaret had passed away in childbirth, September 23, 1799. She was laid to rest on the east side near the old Indian burial ground (now the Revolutionary War cemetery). Happily, not long after I remarried a girl from Conklin, NY named Betsy (Elizabeth) Sneedon. We raised an additional 8 children. All but one survived to adulthood.

The replacement house I owned was built in 1783 by a descendant of absentee land owner Henry Evans of Philadelphia. He had acquired many "patents" of land never visited by he or his wife. I enjoyed the establishment of a distillery on the Deansville section of the town. It was later relocated to the hills above the river on the east. There existed artesian springs for much better water source (now Laurel Bank Cemetery).

All the saloons and taverns in the area served my special brands of "whisky slings". My brother Christian and I applied for a liquor license and were granted the first in Cookhouse/Deposit in 1806 located at 1 River St. (now The Rookery) Christian and I ran the Deposit House (now razed) at the corner of Pine and River St. until the license had been procured. After 1835, the second location was rented to another man until the mid 19th C.

When I moved to Cannonsville, my name was Konrad Ittig. When asked by Jesse Dickerson of what origin, he simplified it to Conrad Edick. Sounds the same phonetically, doesn't it? I was proud to be in Deposit at it's incorporation in 1811. The area is truly one of "nature's and God's blessings" !!!

Sincerely,

Richard S. Axtell, President

Celebrate!

**Historical Society to participate in the
Deposit Bicentennial Celebration**

Celebrate!

The Village of Deposit will be celebrating its bicentennial on August 13th and 14th. The Deposit Historical Society Museum will be open both days from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be special exhibits, as well as a slide show of old photos of the area. The slide show will air at 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 2:00 PM both days. Please be sure to stop by and celebrate with us!

Aerial Images at the Museum in August

During the month of August, a special exhibition of Delaware County aerial photographs will be on display at the museum. These images offer an unusual perspective of the area's small towns, rivers, and mountains that have shaped our region. The exhibit is the work of professional artist Corneel Verlaan. Regular viewing hours will be Thursdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 PM. The exhibit may also be viewed while the museum is open during the Bicentennial Celebration.



Thank You...

Thank you to the Deposit Garden Club for their ongoing efforts to prepare the Doris Axtell Memorial Garden in front of the Bundy House. So far we have seen the nice planters with annuals in them. Future plans call for adding perennials in front of the house and porch. An antique sundial has also been obtained and will be included. Thanks also to the students of the Horticulture class at the Deposit High School for coming up with several garden plans for us to consider and their help preparing the soil and moving many plants as needed. We are looking forward to the completed project!

Upstate New York, History Happened Here

On June 15, 2011 Chuck D'Imperio returned to the Deposit Historical Society to present a new program. By way of background, "Big Chuck" is a well-known upstate New York radio personality. In 2000, he was inducted into the New York State Country Music Hall of Fame as New York's Broadcaster of the Year. Mr. D'Imperio is also known as an author of books and articles focusing on New York State history.

During his presentation, he shared excerpts from his latest book, *Upstate New York, History Happened Here*. The book is about twenty-five significant and insignificant people who made history happen in upstate New York. For example, did you know that Whitehall, New York is the birthplace of the U.S. Navy? According to Chuck, "Whitehall was founded by British Navy Captain Philip Skene in 1759 (he named the town Skenesborough). When Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys were heading west from Vermont to attack Fort Ticonderoga, an advance party encountered Skene's troops." They forced them to surrender and confiscated Capt. Skene's 41-foot schooner. Col. Benedict Arnold sailed the ship north and engaged the British ship, the *Enterprise*, on Lake Champlain. This is now recognized as the first battle of the U.S. Navy.



Also, did you know that Ithaca is the birthplace of the ice cream sundae? The story goes that on Sunday afternoon April 3, 1892, Chester Platt, a druggist in downtown Ithaca, had his soda jerk whip up a double-scoop of ice cream, slather it in cherry sauce, and top it with a long stemmed cherry special for Rev. Scott. The three of them decided to name it in honor of the day it was served, Cherry Sunday. They later changed the name to Cherry Sundae. It seemed fancier! Word spread about the new ice cream treat. It became a permanent entry on the menu of "Platt and Colt's Famous Day and Night Soda Fountain."

If you are interested in learning about *Roxbury: It began on Hardscrabble Road* or *Oneonta: World's Largest*

Roundhouse, or *Westfield: Welch's Grape Juice and Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*, you'll have to purchase a copy of Mr. D'Imperio's book.

As always, everyone enjoyed Big Chuck's humor and his ability to tell a good story.

Brown Bread and Baked Beans

Another of the fundraisers sponsored by the Deposit Historical Society is the sale of brown bread and baked beans during the Lumberjack Festival. The weather for this event was perfect. The DHS booth was on the opposite side of the street from past years, but that did not keep customers who look forward to the bread and beans from finding us. Thank you to all those who baked bread and beans and also thank you to the many who purchased baked goods and other museum products. It helps us to keep the museum open and to sponsor speakers throughout the year.



Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair

Even though the weather was not excellent the day of *the Annual Old Time Folk and Craft Fair*, the vendors and attendees were! On May 14th, fair attendees strolled from booth to booth investigating the many wonderful craft items talented vendors had on display. Shoppers also enjoyed the food from Joy Felber and the music of the West Branch Ramblers. The Deposit Garden Club had a record number of locally grown perennials and houseplants for sale. The Historical Society offered a variety of baked goods for sale along with the usual museum products. The Old Time Folk and Craft Fair is one of the fundraisers DHS sponsors each year. The DHS Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended the event either as a buyer or as a vendor. Here are some pictures of the “action” both inside the museum and outside.





Washing Machine Donated to DHS Museum

A wooden washing machine was donated by Carl A. Clark of 2288 Silver Lake Road, Town of Deposit, Hancock, NY 18373, in memory of his Great Grandmother, Rosa A. Mayo, born October 10, 1864, deceased July 2, 1956. This washer was used by her in all her early married life.



Mrs. Rosa A. Mayo

The washing machine, a *Universal*

Southern Tier Milky Ways

On April 20th Susan Sherwood, director of the Center for Technology and Innovation in Binghamton presented Southern Tier Milky Ways. The program focused on Borden creameries and condenseries as well as Gail Borden Jr., inventor, surveyor, publisher, philanthropist, and founder of the Borden Company. He envisioned food concentrates as a way of safeguarding the human food supply and was the first person to develop a commercial method of condensing milk.

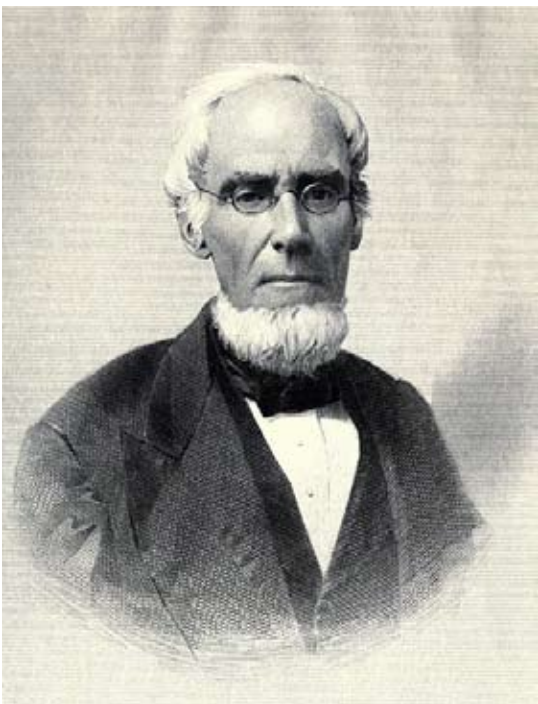
Gail Borden Jr. (1801 – 1874) was born in Norwich, NY on November 9, 1801. In 1816 his family moved to New London, Indiana. This is where Borden obtained his formal schooling totally about 1.5 years.

In the 1840s, after many varied business ventures, he began inventing. He experimented with large-scale refrigeration as a means of preventing yellow fever. He also designed a prairie schooner that could go on both land and water. In 1849 he perfected the meat biscuit. It was made of dehydrated meat and flour. For seven years, he tried to market these biscuits. He even moved to New York in 1851 so that he would be nearer trade centers. This project left him deep in debt. He gave up on meat biscuits and put all of his energy into condensing milk.



Sherwood and Ellen Discuss a condensery picture

It was in 1853 that he filed for a patent on the process of condensing milk in a vacuum. He adapted an old Shaker method he had learned about in New Lebanon, NY. Prior to filing for this patent, in the 1840s he had opened his first “condensery” in Wasaic, NY. Borden created the New York Condensed Milk Company. Sales grew and Borden’s success was assured. He opened more factories. He started branching out into other businesses. The Borden Milk Company was founded in 1857 as the successor of the New York Condensed Milk Company. The advent of the Civil War intensified the demand for condensed milk.



Gail Borden Jr.

In 1828, Borden married Penelope Mercer. They had seven children. In 1845 he married Augusta Stearns, and in 1860 he married Emeline Eunice Church. He died in Borden, Texas, on January 11, 1874. His body was shipped by private car to New York for burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

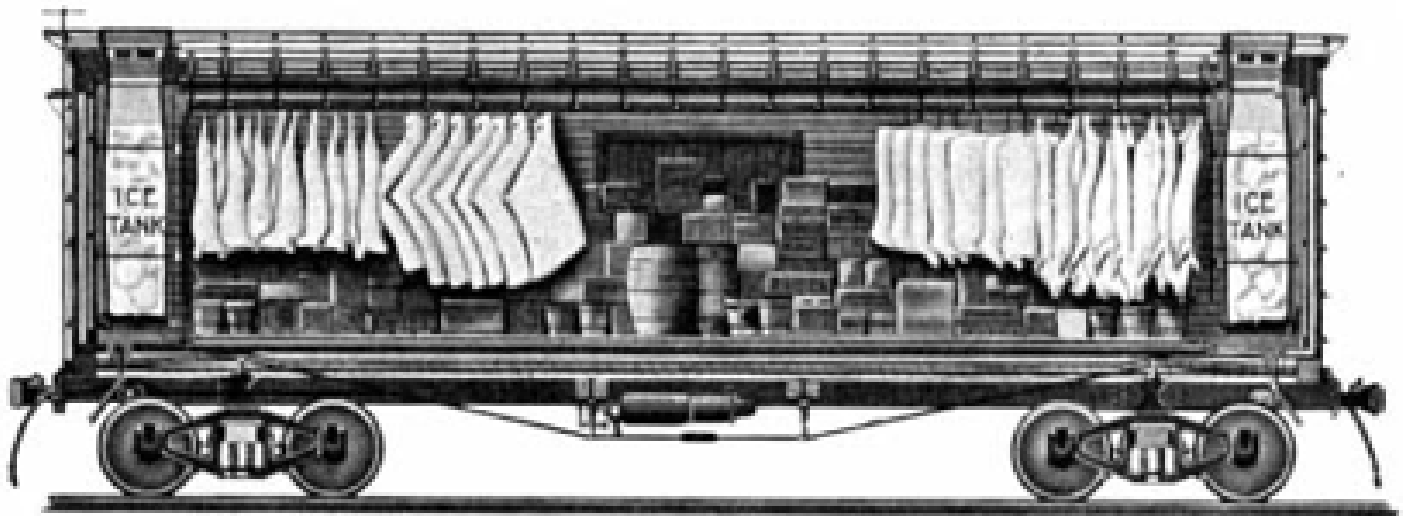
Ms. Sherwood also shared that during the “good ole days” families lived on the food they could generate themselves. Fresh milk came from their own cows or maybe their

neighbor's cows. Farmers peddled milk door-to-door. Sometimes they even brought the cow along and filled the customer's milk pail right on the spot! Nothing like fresh milk! As the population of the United States increased and cities grew, it became impossible for small farms to supply the increased demand for milk. Delivering milk to distant customers before it spoiled became increasingly difficult. To keep harmful bacteria from growing, farmers were required to store milk under 50° F prior to delivery to a creamery or a milk processing station.

In the 1860's Louis Pasteur developed a way to eliminate undesirable bacteria from milk by partially sterilizing it. This made milk safer to drink. Keeping the pasteurized milk at a temperature of less than 50° F was accomplished by storing it in cans in cold spring water or ice. This helped the dairy business to grow. In New York State, during the year of 1910, more than 524 million gallons of milk and over 1.2 million pounds of cream were sold. Cortland and Chenango counties contained the greatest concentration of milk cows in the state. St. Lawrence and Delaware counties boasted the largest number of cows with over 100,000 head each.

To move all of the dairy and meat products produced on these farms, the railroad stepped up. It was on November 7, 1835 that ground was broken for the New York & Erie Railroad, which later became the Erie Railroad. A monument, which can still be seen near the site of the old station house, was erected to commemorate the event. Lumber, leather, and bluestone were the foundation of Deposit's economy at the time. With the demand for milk products downstate, Deposit was a prime location for a Borden condensery. Hence, the Borden's Condensed Milk Company Station No. 4 was built. Eventually milk and meat products were transported in refrigerated train cars called reefers for short. A Mr. Wilder, an employee of the Northern Railroad of New York is credited with their invention. It made it possible for farmers in the Ogdensburg, NY area who made butter to ship it year round. Before the advent of the reefer, they were only able to ship during cold weather.

Early reefers were made of wood and were about 36 feet long. Bunkers to hold the ice were built into each end of the car. They were filled through hatches in the roof. They could travel about 250 miles before they needed re-icing. Below is a cross section of an early reefer.



When you look at the railroad and the former location of Borden's in Deposit, you realize that Deposit was once a very important town on the Erie Railroad between Binghamton and Port Jervis. Many residents were employed in the yards or in other railroad and dairy related businesses.

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

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



Wednesday, July 20, 2011 7:30 PM: Rafting and Lumbering on the Delaware

More details on page 1 of this newsletter. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Sat./Sun. August 13/14, 2011 From 9AM to 3 PM. Slide Shows at the Museum

Guided tours of some of Deposit's historical buildings will be part of the Bicentennial Celebration. The museum will offer slide shows of a number of these buildings with information about each of them. The slide show will be repeated three times each day, at 10 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 2:00 PM. An outstanding exhibit of aerial photographs will also be on display. (See article inside)

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 7:30 PM: Rifleman of the American Revolution

A living history program will be presented by George Cummings. Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

Note... The article on the Smith Pharmacy will appear in our next issue because of lack of space in this one.



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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