



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

Deposit Historical Society

Apr. 2022: Vol XX Issue I

The Deposit Historical Society

145 Second Street

Deposit, New York 13754

(607) 467-4422

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

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

Welcome back to the 2022 Season. Starting with Memorial Day, the museum will soon be opening on Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you as you visit our comprehensive museum. All our programs and entrances to the museum are free and open to the public!

This summer the Deposit Historical Society will be partnering with the Deposit Family Recreation Group in monitoring the 22nd Almost Annual 5K run! We look forward to seeing all the runners! One project we hope to complete this summer is the roof replacement on the Bundy House which has acquired several leaks. All donations to this endeavor are welcome!

Our programs on the Third Wednesday of the month will be resuming, starting with our annual meeting on April 20th at 7:00 PM with a musical program featuring Beatrice Summers!

Our research Library is open year-round on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 AM – noon. Drop ins are always welcome! The research center is where item donations can be made and family histories researched. Each donation - whether a photo, document, family history, or artifact - represents a family treasure that contributes to the preserved history of the Deposit community.

*Hope to see you soon!*

*President Terry Raymond*

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## DHS SPRING MUSICAL KICK OFF

This year's season opening program at the Museum will feature Beatrice Daddis-Summers and Barbara Fenning-Acker, sharing their songs and musical talents. The local duo will perform original tunes as well as popular and old tyme music. Please join us for this free musical experience on Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm. Refreshments will be served.

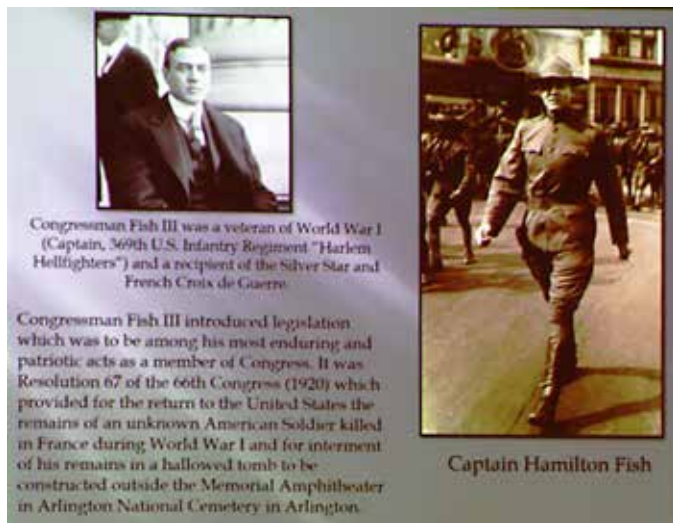
The Museum hosts free programs the third Wednesday of every month from April through December at 7pm. A schedule of upcoming events can be found on our Deposit Historical Society website.

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend the Museum will be open for exhibit viewing on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm - 4pm, through Columbus Day Weekend. Our Research Library in the Bundy House remains open year round on Tuesdays from 9:30am until noon, or by appointment (607) 467-4422.

# 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Arlington, Virginia

**Vicky House**, Town of Oxford historian and Town Clerk, presented the program on the 100th Anniversary of the Unknown Soldier on November 11, 2021 at the Deposit Historical Society. The following is a synopsis of her program.

On December 21, 1920, Representative Hamilton Fish III of New York introduced H. J. Resolution 426 (Public Resolution 67) in the 66th Congress, which provided for returning to the remains of an unknown World War I American soldier killed in France to the United States. His remains would be interred in a tomb to be constructed outside the newly constructed Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Congress approved the resolution on March 4, 1921. In the last hours of his presidency, Woodrow Wilson signed the Resolution into law.



Four crews of two men went to four French cemeteries with burials from four battle areas. Four graves were undug from under 4 feet of dirt. The bodies, which were not in caskets, were investigated by checking the grave registry along with searching for letters, rings, and birth marks. If the body was not identifiable, it was placed on a white sheet in a casket and sent to the City Hall in Châlons-en-Champagne, France.

U.S. Army sergeant Edward F. Younger, who had been wounded in combat, and had been highly decorated for valor with the Distinguished Service Cross during the First World War, selected the Unknown Soldier of World War I from the four identical caskets on October 24, 1921. Younger marched into the room

as Chopin's Funeral March played. He wondered if any of these men had saved him, as he paced around the room circling the American draped caskets several times. He then placed a bouquet of white roses on one casket. The remaining caskets were reburied in a different cemetery from where they started.

Each of the four American soldiers was shipped back to America with 2" of French soil under the casket. Because the French insisted that if "they died on French soil, they should be buried on French soil." There was no room for caskets in cabins, so were they kept on deck. During storms men came out and put their arms across the caskets to make sure they did not go overboard into the ocean.

The eight men, who made up the four crews, went everywhere with the casket of the unknown soldier. They were in the French parade that honored the unknown soldier. They were with the casket as it crossed the Atlantic in the ship USS Olympia. The French Navy escorted the Olympia as it left Le Havre, France with the flowers of all nations on the casket. They were joined by hundreds when they reached America.

At Washington, D.C., lines of U.S. Navy soldiers, government officials and generals, marched in procession following the horse-drawn caisson, containing the casket to the Capitol Rotunda, where wreaths were laid, many services were held, and an Honor Guard of one Sailor, one Marine, one Soldier and one National Guardsman stood guard. Chief Plenty Coups, the last traditional chief of the Apsáalooke (Crow) tribe of the Great Plains, was among the distinguished dignitaries at the burial of the World War I Unknown Soldier on November 11, 1921. He represented the 36,000 Indians who fought in World War I; he placed a war bonnet, coup sticks, and headdress on the casket.

The tomb was not completely finished for burial when the unknown soldier arrived. It was worked on from 1921 to 1923. The white marble block was from Yule, Colorado, shipped to and first carved in Proctor, Vt. with the final carvings done in situ. It was constructed out of several large marble panels weighing 79 tons. On one side, is relief of three Greek figures representing peace, valor, and victory. On the other side, there are sculpted six inverted wreaths each representing a major campaign from WW I. The words "here lies

in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”

Many people visited the tomb. Family members came and prayed. The Women’s Relief Corp sent a delegate every Mother’s Day. Some people had picnics on top while others came to chip away some of the marble for souvenirs. It wasn’t until an army veteran complained about the damage that the president placed a police guard around the tomb. In 1926, the first military guard became a permanent protector ‘ and in 1931 a fence was placed around the tomb. In 1948, the tomb became guarded by a selected, active duty, highly trained soldier Honor Guard 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with zero exception. When the cracks in the tomb were repaired through the day and night, the guard continued their duty.

Every hour during the winter and every half hour during the summer and daylight hours, one guard relieves another. While on duty, the Tomb Sentinel marches 21 steps across a black mat passing the grave markers of each of the unknowns. He then turns 90-degrees and faces east for exactly 21 seconds. He then turns north for 21 seconds which is followed by crisp shoulder arms movement where the guard places his rifle on the shoulder nearest the spectators to symbolize that he stands between the tomb and any outside threat. The guard then paces 21 steps to the north, turns, and repeats the entire process until he is relieved. When his time is done, a new guard arrives at the tomb with a commanding officer who inspects the new guard’s weapon and uniform with scrutiny. If all is in order, the relieved guard leaves, and the new guard makes his way to the center of the tomb. The number 21 symbolizes a 21-gun salute the ultimate honor a dead soldier receives.

The honor guard lives downstairs under the tomb for two years. The guard’s uniforms are wool despite the season. Their shoes have no heels. They must pass tests three times and take refresher courses. If a commander inspecting the gun slips and the bayonet goes into their foot, they can’t flinch nor stop their walk.

An ambulance will come after their duty is completed. Once an Honor Guard has been selected from the 3rd US Infantry (The Old Guard), he is not allowed to drink liquor or swear. If he violates any of the rules during his service time, he must turn in his badge.



In 1956, President Eisenhower signed a law to select and pay tribute to the fallen unknown soldiers of the Koren War and WWII. In 1984, the unknown soldier from Vietnam was laid to rest. Advances in DNA technology allowed the body to be exhumed in 1998 and tested, it was identified as 1st Lt. Michael Blassie. His crypt remains vacant with the crypt covering inscription, “Honoring and Keeping faith with American’s Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975.”

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier remains a timeless place for Americans today to reflect on the personal costs of duty and sacrifice made in preserving freedom in the world.



# Slow and Easy School

*Written by Ernest Dalton in the February issue of the Deposit Magazine/Courier Magazine*

*Responses written April 1954*

*Robert E. Bates, West Hempstead, N.Y.*

The Slow and Easy school was named for a kind of mill built in the locality in the early days. This mill consisted of a container filled with grain that was ground or crushed by dropping a log onto it. The log was raised by a rope which went over a pulley overhead and was attached to the top of a tub. When the log was down on the grain a stream of water ran into the tub until it was heavier than the log. The tub dropped down and the log was raised a few feet over the grain. At the lower end of the tub, descending water was spilled out by another rope attached to the bottom of the tub. This allowed the log to fall on the grain and tub raised again under stream of water and operation was repeated. This was known as the a "slow and easy mill."

This reminds me of a man who was riding on a stage-coach between East Branch and Downsville 40 or 50 years ago. When the stage had passed Harvard a mile or two, the driver stopped by the roadside explaining he was waiting for "for the long flat teacher." The passenger was surprised when a short, round young lady got on the stage. She was the teacher of the Long Flat School.

*Written by Kathryn J. Palmer, Port Chester, NY*

Having lived next to this same school for 35 years, I was naturally interested, too. According to old timers, there was an old up and down sawmill situated at the end of the binnekill which flows across what is now the George Faulkner farm, across the farm we owned, and then across the W.J. Yoepp farm and back into the river at what is known as the Kelsey's farm.

This mill was slow and as the saw moved up and down it seemed to say S-l-o-w and E-a-s-y. Hence it came to be known as the Slow and Easy district or community.

Since my late husband was several times a school trustee, I had the opportunity to use the old trustee books which held the records of the school. It records where James Akin and Anna Burrows (Smith) had taught at

the school for the magnificent sum of \$1.50 per week and board around.

Progress among us has went as much as in any other community. Keeping pace with other surrounding schools the pupils in Slow and Easy also advanced to higher education.

Parents transported their student to Deposit High School. Many long tedious hours were spent in doing so but finally new ideas sprang up and our community worked together to centralize. This was finally accomplished in 1937 and our little school sank into oblivion as did many others.

Buses were provided for the children and what had been Slow and Easy school was no more.

Just as the school had disappeared, so did our community's name. N.H. Faulkner had come to live in our midst and recognizing the name as inappropriate for such a thriving community, he started on a new and better identification, namely Brookville.

The old schoolhouse had been sold and remodeled into a four-room cottage and what been the school and meeting place for picnics and get-togethers passed on, but also the feeling of neighborliness disappeared.

Ours had been a wonderful neighborhood and many older residents still the closeness that the little school had brought about.

In closing, let me say, while we lost our individual school, we gained a much superior one, which was brought about by the centralization from Deposit High School to Deposit Central School with its grand new building.

*Written by Mrs. O.J. Franks, Rockdale, N.Y.*

I think the name had nothing to do with the school, but that it applied to the locality. Back somewhere through the years I recall having heard that the water in the river came down around the "Old Kelsey Dugroad" so slow and easy that it was just called "The Slow and Easy".

Whether the water backed up to form a binnekill I do not know or if there was any mill there or not. I would be interested in hearing if someone really knows.



# One Swamp, Many Stories

**Rick Bunting**, photographer, storyteller, and nature enthusiast came to the Deposit Historical Society to describe the life found in a swamp on Nurse Hollow Roads outside of Afton, NY. He took us through the seasons with stories, anecdotes, and beautiful photography to illustrate the varied life in the swamp.

In the swamp, January presents itself in the swamp as a leafless expanse with the nests covered in snow. The red bellied woodpeckers and morning doves have stayed. March greets us with the early arrivals of the robins, red winged blackbirds, and song sparrows. The British soldier lichens unfold as the snow leaves. The yellow Coltsfoot spreads its flowers.

The Great Blue Heron male arrives in March or April to set up shop by either adopting a nest or making a new nest. Courting begins when the male collects as many as 37 sticks for the nest while the female postures for him. Their sensitive bills touch, hold, and cuddle. The female takes a week to lay 5 or 6 eggs (some don't hatch, and others are abandoned) and then sits on the nest, incubating them. The different hatching times sets the scene for sibling rivalry. As she sits, the male continues to bring her sticks. One adult is always on the nest for up to 3 weeks, while the other adult gets food for the demanding chicks. They feed the young through regurgitation which is dumped into the bottom of the nest. Last winter, the swamp had 10 functioning nests, containing 23 fledgings and adults.

The first frog to appear is the wood frog. They freeze solid over the wintertime. Frog antifreeze protects their organs over the winter and any eggs laid also contain the antifreeze. The smaller male floats on top of the water to attract the larger female. He hangs on to her while she extrudes her eggs so that he can fertilize them. Two other species of frog are present in the swamp: the bull frog (tympanic membrane is bigger than the eye) and the green frog (ridge line running from eye to back leg).

The Canadian geese arrive early and nest. Courting is done by them dipping into the water while double dipping results in copulation underwater. She bathes quickly afterward. After the eggs are laid, she pulls out

down from her body to cover the eggs, and She does not leave the nest until the eggs hatch, She survives on the food that the male brings her.

The brown creeper bird is an early nester. The early nesters over winter under the bark of trees while the late nesters migrate. Their nests, holes in slots in the bark, are hammock held by cocoon thread, twigs, and spider silk. Kingbirds nest in the open, have no fear, and go after eagles to protect their young. Flickers dance before the watching female and remove old nesting material before building a new nest. Black-billed cuckoo nest near tent caterpillars, so they have a ready supply of food.

The green heron adult and their young come to the swamp in the middle of the summer to feed after the young have been raised. The great egret is a late fall visitor. The phoebe is the first bird in and the last bird out of the swamp.



Painted turtles are one of the many kinds of turtles that can be found in the swamp. Wood turtles have a sculpted carapace with orange underneath. Snapping turtles have a mating ritual that involves crashing and thrashing. A 7-inch carapace equals 7 years, and a 15-inch carapace means the turtle is 45-50 years old.

Rick Bunting photographed and identified multiple birds, mammals, flowers, and insects. The stories recently shared are just a small sample of the wonders that can be found in a swamp.

**B R**

# DEPOSIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**All programs are free of charge and everyone is welcome. Please check our website for any changes or cancellations. All programs are followed by refreshments in the train room.**

APRIL 20th, Wed. 7pm

Opening Meeting featuring BEATRICE DADDIS-SUMMERS and BARBARA FENNING-ACKER. The local duo will perform original tunes as well as popular and old tyme music.

MAY 18TH, WED. 7pm

DENNIS VALENTE, Presentation and musical demonstration on Vintage Phonographs.

JUNE 15th, Wed. 7pm

JOHN DARROW, local historian will come in the character of DE WITT CLINTON and speak about the creation of the Erie Canal.

JULY 20th Wed. 7pm – **PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

JULY 16th Sat. - Sale Booth at LUMBERJACK FESTIVAL

AUGUST 17th Wed. 7pm

“BIG CHUCK” D’IMPERIO, Discussion and book signing of *Open House*, a book about Upstate NY mansions.

SEPTEMBER 17th Sat. - Sale Booth at BARTISAN FESTIVAL at the RED BARN.

SEPTEMBER 21st Wed. 7pm

JACK SHAY, local author & historian, will present “*U.S. Presidential Candidates from New York State*” .

OCTOBER 9th Sun. – Sale Booth at Deposit’s OKTOBERFEST.

OCTOBER 19th Wed. 7pm

SAMANTHA MISA, folklorist and author, presenting “*Witches of the Catskills.*” Book signing and refreshments.

NOVEMBER 16th Wed. 7pm

JUDITH PRESENT, playwright, will give performance of “Those Who Crossed Barriers.” Part II.

DECEMBER 4th Sun. 2pm

“A HOLDREGE FAMILY CHRISTMAS.” Free Holiday Musical Event. Refreshments will be served.



## *Membership Renewal Time Again*

If you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2022.

Membership rates are as follows:

Lifetime -- \$100

Annual -- \$20

Senior (55 and over) and Student -- \$10

Please submit your membership renewal promptly to Deposit Historical Society,

145 Second Street, Deposit, NY 13754.

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*

### ***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 Michael and Gail Musante at 145 Second Street, Deposit, NY 13754, or email it to one of us at [gail.musante@gmail.com](mailto:gail.musante@gmail.com) We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!

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