



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

Deposit Historical Society

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The Deposit Historical Society

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

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

## President's message

It is a sad response for me to honor in retrospect a devoted member of our "group." Ann Parsons spent her valuable life span making the Historical Society what it is today. Without her due diligence so many aspects of our history might not have been recorded, researched, regarded as important. We will mightily miss her continued allegiance to our board and environs. Research was her specialty among other talents. Who will fill her shoes? While our secretary, treasurer, curator fill many jobs, Ann will be difficult to replace. So much work is entailed with the unpaid gifted job. As we progress, please remember to honor Ann with pleasant thoughts.

On other fronts, changes have been made to heating, driveway and endowments. So the progression is laid out before us. More dedicated funding is in the picture for the year ahead.

Hopefully, at least one monthly program can be presented. The COVID disease has diminished the public participation. Practicing social guidelines can allow limited uses of the museum and programs. Future board meetings will tell the story. Two prospective board members have been interviewed. A decision is forthcoming.

Meanwhile consider a donation in support of our future reopening.

*Thanks to all, sincerely President Richard Axtell*

# SPECIAL ISSUE

# EDUCATION IN DEPOSIT

## THROUGH THE AGES

## 1854 - PRESENT

# One-Room Schoolhouses of Delaware County

Common School Districts TOWN OF TOMPKINS Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1855						
Dist. No	Towns	Town Located	Year Built	Material, Condition	Trustees	School-House Location
2 (W)	Tompkins	Tompkins			Seth Hart, Thos. J. Green, S.D. Higgins	Village of Deposit
3(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/good	C.P. Stiles, D.W. Graves, George Briggs	Stilesville
4(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1850	Wood/good	N.M. Hamblet, John Smith, Jacob Neff	Hambletville
5(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1853	Wood/good	WN K. Owens. E.W. Ostrom	Cannonsville
6(J)	Tompkins & Walton	Tompkins			George Waterman, Stephen Husted, George Brooks	Southeast Tompkins, near Walton line
6(W)	Tompkins & Walton	Tompkins		Wood/good	Peleg Kent, Leroy Storrs	Cannonsville, back side Delaware River
7(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1831	Stone/good	Daniel N. Alverson,, John Webster, Stephen J. Griffin	Between Cannonsville & Walton
8(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/good	Jacob Walley, Thomas Burnside, Charles Parks	Rockroyal
9(J)	Tompkins & Sanford	Sanford	1845	Wood/good	J.E. Whitaker, S.F. Whitaker, Joseph Bodley	Halfway down road from Deposit & Hale Eddy
10(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1839	Wood/ comfortable	William Axtell, Joseph Man	Between Hambletville & Baberville
11(J)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1843	Timber&nails/ poor	Joseph Simpson, Ezra Platt, Augustus B. Chase	Most western line of Walton. Area along bottom of "foot"
12(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1841	Wood/good	George H. Taylor, Martin Hoag, James S. Burnside	Upper Barborville
13(J)	Tompkins,& Masonville	Tompkins	1847	Wood/good	Nathan Curtis, Herman T. Smith, D.B. Cook	Northeast corner Topkins, Area east of Cockburn's Gore
14(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/good	Jerome Tillotson, McD. Tillotson	On the road from Cannonsville to Rockroyal
15(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins			Levi Miles, Stephen Kelsey	2/3 way from Deposir to Cannonsville
16(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/good	S. Bullock	Shown as District No. 6 on Gould Map
16 (J)	Tompkins,& Masonville	Tompkins	1854	Logues/good	Stephen Young, Nelson Graves, Ury Bidewell	In middle of Tompkins/Masonville line
17 (W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1853	Sap pine/ good	F. Palmer, Henry Peters	Backside of Delaware River opposite Stilesville
18(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/good		Johnny Brook Road beyond toll gate before Cannonsville
19(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1855	Wood/good	Peter Huyck, William Lawson	Road from Trout Creek to Walton, halfway to town line
20(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins			Hiram Knickerbacor, Peter N. Baile	Route 206- from Trout Creek to Walton, before town line
21(J)	Tompkins & Sanford	Tompkins	1832	Frame/good	Giles H. Lincoln, M.G.G. Valentine	Area north of Deposit, 1/3 distance to Masonville line (Beebe Hill)
22(J)	Tompkins & Walton	Walton	1845	Wood/good	Jeremiah Darlin, Dudley Taylor	Road from Trout Creek to town of Walton.
23(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1850	Wood/good	Benjamin Hathaway, Asa V. Moore, Ansel Owen	Sands Creek Road out of Cannonsville.
24(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1855	Wood/good	Chauncy Mills, Jacob Gardinier, Jesse T. Smith	Dry Brook Road to Rockroyal.
25(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/ Miserable	Cyrus Backus, Sever Wine	Morman Hollow- off road to Trout Creek from Cannonsville
26(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1849	Wood/Bad	John Gransbury, Wm Dennis, Peter Constable	Road above District 8, going toward- Walton,(Loomis)
27(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1851	Wood/Poor	Nathaniel L. Grant Sherman S. Gregory	Back side of Delaware River from Granton- District 7
28(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins			E.B. Clearwater, S.A. Greenman, James Tompkins	Hales Eddy
29(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1851	Wood/Good	Henry Axtell, Abraham Wright, Alfred Lovelace	Lower Barbourville
30(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins	1852	Logs	Johnson Nailor	Road from Cannonsville to Trout Creek-1/3 distance-road north-1/2 way to Masonville line.
31(W)	Tompkins	Tompkins		Wood/Poor		Dryden road, off Cannonsville to Walton, road toward Walton line.
32(J)	Tompkins,& Masonville	Tompkins	1852	Hemlock / Pine-Good	William H. Jacobs, Freeman Wilson, Samuel J. Teed	Trout Creek, formerly Teedville area.
33(J) & 16(J)	Tompkins, & Masonville	Masonville	1854	Logues/Good	Stephen Young, Ury Bidewell, Nelson Graves	In the middle of the Tompkins/Masonville Line.
34(J)	Tompkins,& Hancock	Hancock			Riley Read Richard Sands	Southeast part of town-road across the Delaware River from "sole of foot" of town of Walton (Readburn)

Copied from the Delaware County Historical Website

## Laurel Bank Seminary 1854-1869

The initial move to build the seminary began on November 23, 1852. It was an institution for literacy and scientific instruction and education and was incorporated on July 1851 under New York State academic and high school laws. The association was called the Deposit Seminary. The capital stock of the school was ten thousand dollars divided into five hundred shares of twenty dollars each. There was a total of sixty-five shareholders.



The Seminary was to be located on a lot on the east side of the river on the residence of Albert C. Weed. The five-acre lot (825 feet deep by 264 feet wide) was bought for five hundred dollars. This lot of land was called the “Distillery lot” due to the fact that pioneers Conrad Edick and Jotham Parker moved their distillery (it was legal then) from a “flat” west of the Erie Depot to the site that later became the site for the Seminary. The Laurel Bank Cemetery was later built on the Seminary site.

The first meeting of trustees was held in the office of Nelson K. Wheeler, January 8, 1853 where the Reverend A.P. Allen was elected president of the association and principal of the Seminary. His salary was five hundred dollars a year, with board of self and wife with an extra one hundred dollars added if dividends exceeded fourteen percent. At the October 17, 1853 trustee meeting, the name was changed to the Laurel Bank Seminary.

The school opened on December 14, 1853 with 200 pupils in attendance. The finished building

was 116 by 40 feet, with four stories and a stone basement. The upper structure was of wood with stone fillings. Laurel Bank Seminary was successful for many years, but financial difficulties led Reverend Allen and his brother to purchase the property. The corporation was dissolved, and the school continued as a private enterprise. In March of 1857, Reverend Allen died, and the school was closed. However, it was reopened in 1859 by a John Wilde, who was succeeded by H.A. Manbout in 1861.

The school offered the following classes: Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German, English grammar, Mental and Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Modern History, Geography, Painting and Drawing, Vocal and Piano music instruction, Algebra, Plain and Spherical Trigonometry, Bookkeeping, Natural Theology, Botany, Logic, Geometry, and some of the Arts.

By 1864, due to financial problems, the school was closed again and was vacant. In 1866 a local newspaper warned against trespassers. It was 1867, under the guidance of a young adventurer called Colonel J. Lewellyn Young, the school was rented by the Union Home and School of NY City “for the education and maintenance of the children of our volunteer soldiers and sailors” as a school for the orphans of Civil War veterans. By October of 1868, the Courier reported that the “building occupied by the Union Home and School together with the furniture, is for sale.” In a 1867 report Mrs. David Holmes, the Home’s secretary, stated that “we have rented a large and Commodious building, formerly used as a seminary for young ladies.”

The school was then sold to Mrs. John C. Freemont and continued as a successful enterprise until it was destroyed by fire September 6, 1869. Flames were seen emanating from the roof of the structure, and since no water was available nearer than the Delaware River, it did not take long for the building to be destroyed. Unfortunately, the insurance on the structure expired just two days before the fire.

## Pine Grove School 1864- 1884

Several small schools were in existence at the time of the Seminary, but none were of any significance until the year 1864, when a new schoolhouse for District No.3 was erected and called "Pine Grove School." It was located on the very edge of the village on what is now Fourth Street near Court Street and replaced the school that was on the south side of Church and Second Streets. It is thought that a pen-drawn rectangle on the 1856 Jay Gould map, might be this school.

In 1875, when the Joint Union Free School came into being, a graded school system was organized. A primary department was provided by Pine Grove School along with a primary school on Marvin Street, but all pupils upon reaching the fourth grade had to attend Pine Grove School. In October 1881, Broome County Board of Supervisors approved the selling of both primary (Pine Grove/ Broome county and Brookside/Delaware county) schools at a sale price of \$2,000.00 to improve the education in the Town of Deposit as all three buildings were a fair distant apart.

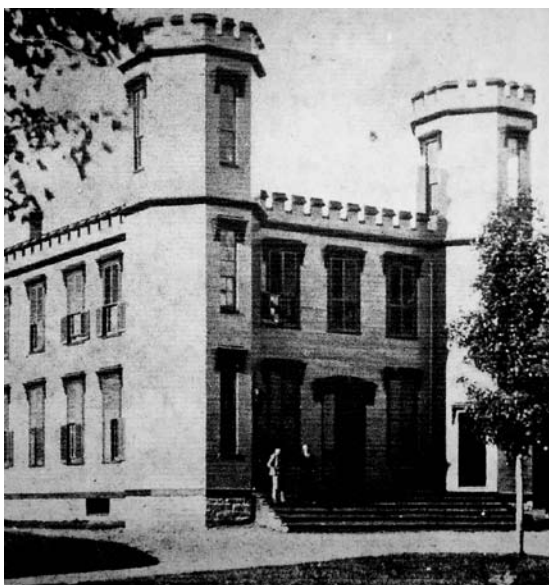
It was said that if you were a good boy, you could go after drinking water which was ob-



tained from a live spring located on upper Fourth Street on the former Sunny Nile's property. The last classes in the Pine Grove School were held in 1884.

In 1887, a pen sketch of the village shows this building being occupied by the Deposit Manufacturing Company. The 1895 Broome County illustrated book reported that "The Deposit Manufacturing Co. turns out annually 50,000 hand-sleds and gives employment to twenty people." In 1907, the building was bought by E.D. Jester and was converted to a two-apartment dwelling by J.H. Phillips.

## The Deposit Academy 1867- 1875



The first Deposit school to be granted a state regents charter was the Deposit Academy. It was a "Norman-castellated" structure built in 1866 at the corner of Second and Center Streets. The school accommodated 200 students. The building and grounds were valued at \$7,700.

The Academy was the first building on the Center-Second Street corner. In 1866, the site was purchased of Nathan L. Dean at a cost of \$1,000 and some acreage was sold off bringing the net cost down to \$750. Fifteen trustees were chosen, a corporation was formed, and the \$7,000 capital, with privilege to increase to \$10,000 was established.



The Deposit Academy was erected in 1866-67 and was torn down in 1882 to make way for a larger wooden building. When Pine Grove was closed to the higher grades, these students went to the Academy. Four courses of study were offered to anyone enrolling in the Academy: Primary, Preparatory, Scientific, and Classical. These courses included such studies as map drawing, rhetoric, natural philosophy, astronomy, mineralogy, evidence of Christianity, Greek,

etc. The object of the Academy was to “secure the proper intellectual and moral development of those in the school.”

The expense for one term (fourteen weeks) in the primary department was about \$5.00, plus the cost of boarding. In the high school department, the cost was about \$8.00. More was charged for advance training.

## Joint Union Free School 1875-1914

In 1875, the Pine Grove school and Brookside Schools and the Deposit Academy were centralized to form the Union Free School. An addition was built on the Academy to accommodate the pupils. The average total of students each year was 446. The pupils were divided into four departments: academic, senior, intermediate, and primary. Each department was then divided into three grades.

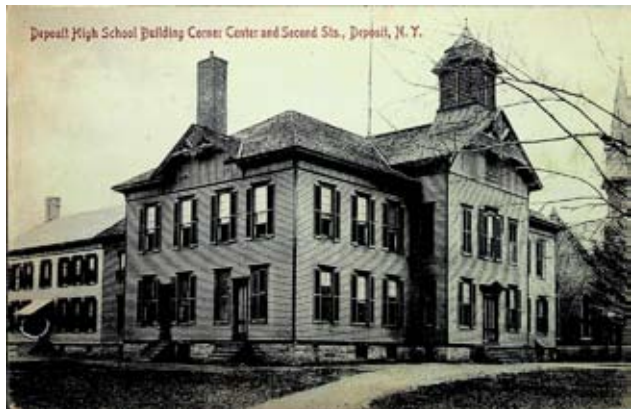
The Deposit Academy building was replaced by the Joint Union Free School. When the Joint Union Free School came into being, a graded school system was organized. In 1884, after the sale and closing of the two primary schools, all grades (1 through 12) attended the Joint Union Free School.

Professor James Jahonnet was the first principal of the Deposit Joint Union Free School and Miss Jennie French, teacher of the first three grades, Miss Nellie Comstock, the fourth-grade teacher, and Miss Sheik the teacher of fifth and sixth

grades, were all members of the Pine Grove Staff.

A tuition was required of pupils who lived outside the school district. Three dollars per term (there were three terms of fourteen weeks each) was charged in the primary department, six dollars in the senior department and eight dollars in the academic department.

This large frame structure served Deposit’s educational needs until 1914



## Deposit High School 1914- 1950

In 1914, after razing the old Joint Union Free School, a new school was built in the same site at an approximate cost of sixty thousand dollars. The old name was retained, but the townspeople usually referred to the school as Deposit High although it housed both elementary and high school students until 1950. The building had seven classrooms on the first floor, with the gymnasium and boiler room in adjacent sub-basements. The

second floor contained seven classrooms, the office, and the auditorium. Five regular classrooms, two science rooms, the library, the gallery of the auditorium and the study hall comprise the third floor. The principals, in order, were F.W. Bailey, Thompson, Cole, Radley and Lane. Mr. Fred Fox, the athletic coach, took over Lane’s position as principal of the whole school district and all grades with sincere approval in 1941.

Most schools in New York State were centralized during the 1930s and 1940s. Trout Creek (District #6), the lone surviving one-room schoolhouse, closed its doors in 1968. Some of the factors that contributed to the idea of centralization were the following: changes in how children should be taught, technology allowing easier transportation of students to school from greater distances, a way to support the war effort by saving money, and bigger schools being built. Keep in mind that although this narration deals primarily with the Deposit schools, there were many rural one-room schoolhouses operating at the same time until centralization occurred.

Before centralization one of Mr. Fox's summer jobs was to walk across the hayfield to talk to the China Road School trustee about closing the school and sending the kids that went there to the big school in Deposit.



Few changes were made in the Deposit school system until 1938, when during the principalship of Mr. Lane, the Deposit High School was centralized. The outlying 25 districts swelled the number of students from 738 to 851 in 1941. No additions were made to the building, but the Baptist Church rooms were rented for one section of second grade and a room in the Deposit Seed Company building on Second Street for a section of the sixth grade. Also, in 1938 the Presbyterian Church dining room and kitchen

were rented for a cafeteria. Mrs. Ralls was put in charge and was succeeded by Clara (Andresen) Walker.

The following is the application for centralization sent in by the Deposit High School. The centralization and the building of an addition was approved by the voters.

*“The central high school, with all grades, is to be located in Deposit. There will be no branch schools of permanent nature. For the first year most rural schools will operate. An addition to the present building in Deposit will provide for all pupils. A six-year high school staff and an English-librarian, three social science teachers, two general science teachers, two mathematical teachers, two commercial teachers, and one teacher for each of the following: Latin, French, Industrial Arts, Home Making, and Agriculture. Also, two physical education teachers and two music supervisors, will combine secondary with elementary work.*

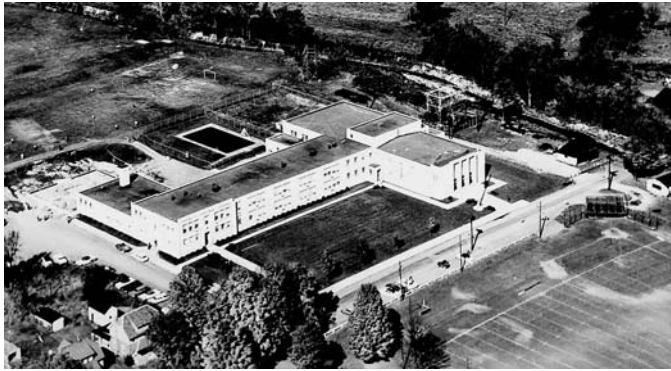
*Ten teachers will provide for the first six grades in the main building, others to be added as the rural schools close. A nurse-attendance officer and a supervising principal will complete the staff. The estimated population is 856, of which 642 will attend the Deposit School and 216 in the present common schools.”*

Within 5 years of the centralization, the new departments of Industrial Arts, Home Economics, and Vocational Agriculture were added. Home Economics, supervised by Thelma Chase was housed in the front of a building bought for its use and the rear of the building was used by Mr. Tracy, director of Industrial Arts. In the summer, he built an addition to the shop for the accommodation of new equipment.

## Deposit Central School 1950-Present

An expanding population made it necessary to build the million-dollar Deposit Central School in 1950. The building included an auditorium and a gymnasium that could be separated into two gyms. A William D. Marshman swim-

ming pool was also located behind the school, although it was financed by community fund raising and donations. In 1960, a new wing was added to the structure. This building serves as our present junior-senior high school.



In this aerial photo of the current high school, the 1960 wing has not been added. The field in the upper right is currently occupied by the bus garage and softball fields. Directly behind the school there was a field hockey field which is now the present elementary school.

After the high school was built in 1950, the 1914 brick building became the Deposit Elementary School. Its three stories housed grades kindergarten through sixth grade. In 1960 the 5th and 6th grades moved to the new

high school wing and in the 1970's they were moved back.

After 70 years of serving Deposit's students, the brick building showed signs of aging. Former coat closets had been turned into offices and remedial classrooms. The balcony overlooking the cafetorium had been enclosed and turned into an art and music room. Vibrations could be felt in some third-floor classrooms and there were concerns about structural safety. In 1984, students were moved out of their classrooms for two months while workers reinforced rooms with support columns from basement to third floor.

When the Baby Boomer generation attended school in the 1960s, even three stories did not accommodate all the elementary-aged children. At one point, kindergarten classes were held in the nearby churches, and the gym shower room became a music room.

## Deposit Elementary School Annex 1967-1993

By 1967, the Deposit Central School buildings needed to accommodate 1,200 students. A one-story temporary blue building was constructed adjacent to the elementary building on Center Street. There were four classrooms in the building. It originally housed third grade classrooms. Eventually, sixth grades were relocated from the high school to the "Blue Building." The DCS graduating class of 1999 was the last class to attend school in the "temporary structure" that had been used for 26 years.



## Deposit Elementary School



Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in 1991 for the new eight-million-dollar elementary school. It was attached to the high school by a second-floor walkway. The move from the "old" school to the "new" school took place in February 1992. When students returned from the long President's Day weekend, they attended their new classrooms.

BR

## *Membership Renewal Time Again*

If you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2019.

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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