



# DHS News

The Official Newsletter  
of the

Deposit Historical Society

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The Deposit Historical Society  
PO Box 134 145 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!*

## President's Message

We would like to thank all visitors and supporters for a successful summer season at the museum! Our open hours for the museum will conclude with Oktoberfest weekend. Our research building, the white house next to the bank, will continue to be open Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30. You can stop by Tuesdays or make an appointment for another day at (607) 467-4422.

On October 14th at 1:00 P.M. come join our Fall Tea with guest speaker Barbara Acker presenting "Beautiful Gourds." Also in October, "Voices from the Grave" will revive "voices" of past Deposit citizens. The event will take place at 7:00 PM on Saturday, October 26th, at the Pine Grove Cemetery (bad weather will move it to the museum). The performance will be repeated in the museum on Sunday the 27th, at 7:00 PM.

Presentarts Theater Company will be performing "The Big, The Bold, and the Brave – Men and Women Whose Imagination and Innovation Inspired Our World" on November 27th at 7:00 P.M. The stories will showcase the lives of charismatic historical notables whose larger-than-life personas, vision and fearlessness had lasting impact on our lives.

*Terry Raymond President*

### Antique Tool Trivia

This cast iron tool dates back to the 1800's. It was a safety device. A heavy chain was often added to the ring. You could find it around depots, store fronts, travel routes and private homes. Can you guess what it is?

Answer on page 7



# It's 1899, and you need a suit

compiled by Michele Shirkey

Looking for a men's suit in 1899? Most were made within the home or at a local tailors shop. However, if you were in the market for some of the finest mens suits, you could order them from the American Woolen Mills Company in Chicago Illinois. The Woolen Mills boasted that they were the largest tailors to the trade in America and offered the finest made to order suits, pants, and overcoats. The company was one of the earliest examples of "shop by catalog" although it still produced tailor made clothing.

The Gardiner family donated one of the Woolen Mills catalogs to the museum which includes an order form, pictures of the products, and samples of the materials used. In the late 1800's early 1900's you could find the catalogs in local mercantile shops where the shop owner or agent would measure you up, fill out the order form and send it off to the company. The company stated that it would take 6-8 days to have the suit made and shipped. Interestingly enough when the suits were completed and mailed to the shop, you could examine them and, if satisfied, you paid cash on delivery.

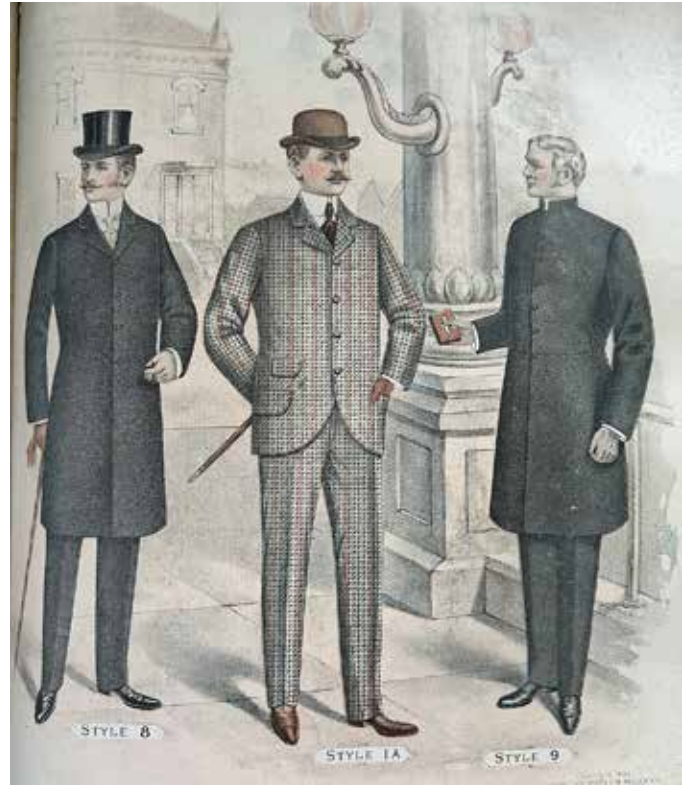
In the 1899 Spring and Summer fabrics catalog, the company states, "We submit our line of spring and summer fabrics with a thorough knowledge advance that we are offering prices no other tailoring company will or can attempt to meet." They state that they sell over 300,000 suits annually because they give you prices based on the actual cost of the materials and labor which you will not find elsewhere. The garments are cut to measure by expert cutters who only cut a particular garment. For example, only a coat cutter will cut coats. Coats include linings, and trimmings, satin piping, fancy arm shields, sleeve linings and are trimmed with superior accessories. They also state, "Our pants are perfect fitting, non ripping, have stay on buttons, and the lasting shape has been the study of our pants tailoring department, and we believe we can say without fear or contradiction that such trousers as we make are not turned out by any other tailoring establishment regardless of price." Early marketing at its best!





The catalog includes rules and instructions on how to take measurements for your made to order garment and there are 9 styles to choose from. Style 1 is a round cut sack, style 2 a square cut sack, style 3 a double breasted sack, style 4 is a three button frock, style 5 is a four button frock, style 6 and 7 are the Prince Albert, style 8 is a single breasted Prince Albert, and style 9 the clerical (see pictures). For each suit, there are a variety of fabrics to choose from. Fabric swatches include cheviot cloth (wool), Carson fancy worsted (a wool and cotton blend), cashmere, and the highest grade of Thibet (goats hair). The colors are plain and tweed in shades of black or brown. There were also 8 fine french silks to choose from, if you wanted a vest to go with your suit.

The cost you ask? In 1899 your custom made to order suit of the finest fit and materials was around \$1,600.00! (the average coat was \$775, pants \$275, and vest \$550) So if you were a man of means and needed to impress, the Woolen Mills Company might have been your go-to catalog. In comparison if you googled a custom made suit today boasting the finest fit and fabrics you might expect to pay \$5000.00!



Stop by the museum and check out the catalog.

## Camp Lumberjack students visit the museum



Over the summer students from the middle school high school visited the museum to learn about Deposit's history. The students were enrolled in Camp Lumberjack, and their visit was part of the summer enrichment class taught by the Mr. Matthews. Museum tour guides Barb Buck and Michele Shirkey shared many Deposit stories from its early beginnings, including the first bank in Deposit, how Deposit got its name, early Deposit industries, and a touch of Revolutionary and Civil War history. Students also explored the history of Deposit schools, and some even found their grandparents and parents in some of the school pictures!

If you have a group that would like to tour the museum volunteers would be happy to set a tour up for you. There are many things to explore, and so much history of our small town just waiting for you!

# From the journals of Anthony W. Knapp.

compiled by Donna Lewis

The Bundy House and its research library contain a wealth of information for genealogists and those interested in Deposit's early history. Families have donated photos, scrapbooks, family Bibles, journals and diaries. These are valuable primary source materials which provide first hand, personal accounts of our early days.

The following entries come from the donated journals of Anthony W. Knapp. He was born January 9, 1869 in Illinois and moved to Deposit in 1881 at the age of 12 after the death of his father. He lived in the Wheeler homestead on Main Street until his death in 1932. He is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

**Tuesday, January 20, 1892-** "The town election to-day, to determine whether we have the streets lit with electricity or not, resulted in 72 votes in favor of it, and 20 votes against it."

**Friday, January 29, 1892-** "We are going to have electric lights in our house when they get the circuit up our street."

**Thursday, February 11, 1892-** "The men commenced wiring the house this morning. They stopped work at noon, because the wire didn't come."

**Saturday, April 16, 1892 -** "They have the lights on the streets and they are burning for the first time tonight."

**Tuesday, May 10, 1892-** "The men commenced wiring the Presbyterian Church to-day. They belong to the Star Electric Co of Binghamton."

**Wednesday, May 18, 1892-** "The Church was lighted this eve for the first time by electric lights and great many were there to see it."



Another wonderful source of historic information is available now through the Deposit Library. The library recently digitized their collection of area newspapers. These are available online through the library's



website. The following article from the **Deposit Courier** dated Thursday, April 21st, 1892 supports the Anthony Knapp accounts:

*The new electric street lamps were all up and the current turned on last Saturday night, and we hear are giving good satisfaction. There are forty-eight of them in all, the electric company having put in one more lamp on Centre street than the contract called for, which in connection with the six arc lamps on Front street light the village to the Queen's taste.*



# DIPHTHERIA

On a more somber note, Anthony's journals reveal the following:

**Tuesday, December 24, 1889-** Bright and cool. Twelve cases of diphtheria in town.

**Thursday, December 26, 1889-** Daisy Evans died of diphtheria this morning at 6 and was buried at 4 pm. There are 7 new cases in town."

**Monday, December 30, 1889-** "Dan Hoyt's oldest boy Raymond died of diphtheria this morning and was buried right away before noon.

(Diphtheria is an infectious disease spread by direct contact and through the air. Many children died of the disease before the development of a vaccine in 1923, therefore it is extremely rare in the U.S. today.)

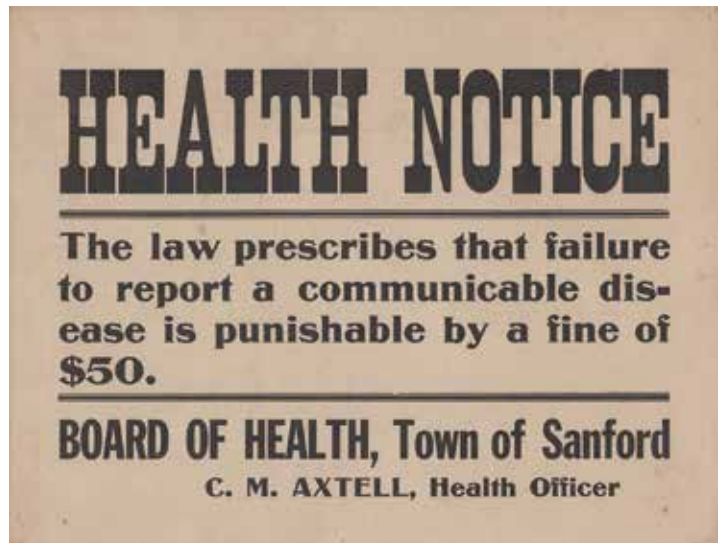
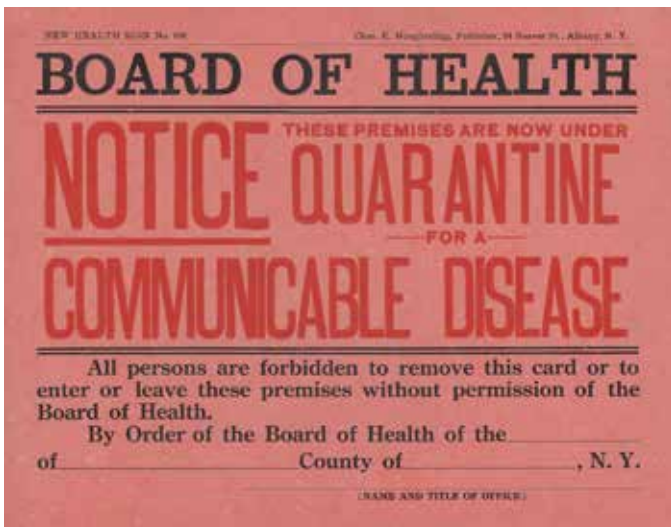
From the library's digitized collection The Tri-County Journal, published in Deposit, NY on December 26, 1889, comes the following

## *Diphtheria in Deposit*

*During the past week several cases of diphtheria have developed in this village and fearing a spread and an epidemic, the Board of Health has taken prompt measures for its suppression.*

*.....where the disease of diphtheria exists a placard upon which shall be plainly written or printed the word "Diphtheria" so as to be plainly visible to those passing the place or street is to be placed.....*

*This prompt action of the Board of Health causes the closing of schools (both day and Sabbath), dancing classes, Christmas and New Year festivities, opera house attractions, etc.*



*Come meet these lovely ladies who will be sharing their stories about growing up in Deposit in the 1800's.*



## **Join the Deposit Historical Society for two productions of Voices from the Grave 2024 edition**

Saturday October 26th at 7pm in the Pine Grove Cemetery, 42 Court Street (if inclement weather will be moved to the museum)

Sunday October 27th at 7pm in the Deposit Historical Society Museum, 145 Second Street

Tickets will be sold at the gate of the cemetery and at the door of the museum.

\$10.00 per person donation suggested,  
Students are free

The Pine Grove cemetery was the first plot of land in Deposit set aside for a cemetery by the Dean family in the early 1800's. Come listen to the stories from the 1800's presented by early settlers who now rest in this cemetery. A teacher will share her 1 room school stories, and you will learn about two Civil War soldiers who were depicted in the movie "Glory". You

will also hear from the family that forged the way to McClure: 2 teen girls will depict life in the "wilderness"; stories will also tell about a Cannonsville resident and about the challenges of a mother of 13 children, who was an avid reader, historian, and founder of bringing the news to Deposit residents.

## **"Dream Big"**

Jordan Patch, owner of the Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville NY shared his story with a packed house at the museum. As a teen, Jordan started his own pet shop, selling reptiles to individuals and larger pet stores. While in college, still operating his pet shop, he started to think about expanding the business. After some trials and tribulations, he met the owner of the property in Harpursville and shared his vision to develop an animal adventure: a place where people could get up close to animals and learn about them and their natural habitats. The owner was so taken by Jordan's enthusiasm and vision that he helped in the financing of the property. Jordan's dream vision started small and expanded, and then expanded some more. Today, the Animal Adventure Park and Animal Safari is home to hundreds of animals. Jordan not only shared his passion with the audience, but he also offered inspiration that anything

is possible as long as you keep sight of the dream or vision and are ready to take on any challenges that may come your way.





# Our first Walking Tour was a big success



The museum's first walking tour was a stroll around the blocks closest to the museum. Participants learned about famous houses, people, and businesses. Did you know Deposit had an Inn that was a stopping point on the Jericho Turnpike? Or that 30,000 seed packets were mailed from Deposit in one day? Or how about Deposit's hospital and its founder Margaret Donahue? Or the pioneers that built our early churches? Or our famous civil war doctor Dr. Bundy? And did you know about the bank robbery that almost happened? The tour was definitely a walk back in time to Deposit's rich history. Look for another walking tour in the summer of 2025.

## DEPOSIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**All programs are free of charge and everyone is welcome. Programs are held at the Museum, 145 Second Street, unless otherwise specified. Please check our website for any changes or cancellations. All programs are followed by refreshments.**

**October 14th-** "Fall Tea" with speaker Barbara Acker presenting "Beautiful Gourds," 1:00 pm

**October 26th-** Fundraiser: "Voices from the Grave," Pine Grove Cemetery, 7:00 pm

**October 27th-** Fundraiser: "Voices from the Grave," At the Museum, 7:00 pm

**November 21st-** "The Big, the Bad, and the Brave," presented by Presentarts, 7:00 pm

**December 8th-** A holiday music event with The Holdrege's, 2pm

**Beginning Memorial weekend and through Columbus weekend, the Museum will be open for exhibit viewing on Saturdays from 10:00 am - Noon and on Sundays from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission is free.**

**Our Research Library in the Bundy House remains open year round on Tuesdays from 9:30 am until noon, or by appointment (607) 467 - 4422.**

**Answer:** It's an antique wagon wheel brake stop! The wagon wheel sat in the brake stop to prevent accidental movement. For additional safety a heavy chain was attached to the ring and then secured to the wagon frame.

## *Membership Renewal Time Again*

If you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2025.

Membership rates are as follows:

Lifetime -- \$250

Annual -- \$20

Please submit your membership renewal promptly to Deposit Historical Society,

PO Box 134 145 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 PO Box 134 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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