



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

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

President's Message

What a summer it's been! With help from a Broome County grant, we've made some big improvements — including a brand new minisplit system in the program room. No more sweltering summer programs! The grant also allowed us to remove a troublesome tree that was threatening the garage's new roof.

Behind the scenes, our board members have been hard at work sewing costumes for this year's "Voices" program at the Revolutionary War Cemetery. And good news — we'll have seating available this time.

We're also dreaming big for the future. Plans are underway to transform the back garage into an old-fashioned tool exhibit. We're gathering estimates now and will share updates as things move forward.

Mark your calendars: September 16 at 7:00 p.m. we'll host a special program celebrating 175 years of the Deposit Fire Company, presented by Chris Zacharias and Dave Lobdell.

Terry Raymond President



This year's Quilt for
the Deposit Historical Society
Raffle
is a beautiful design in
Red White and Blue

The quilt is 86" by 86".

The tickets are \$2.00 for one or \$5.00 for six

A Winning Ticket will be drawn at Octoberfest
Sunday October 11th.

The American Revolution and VOICES

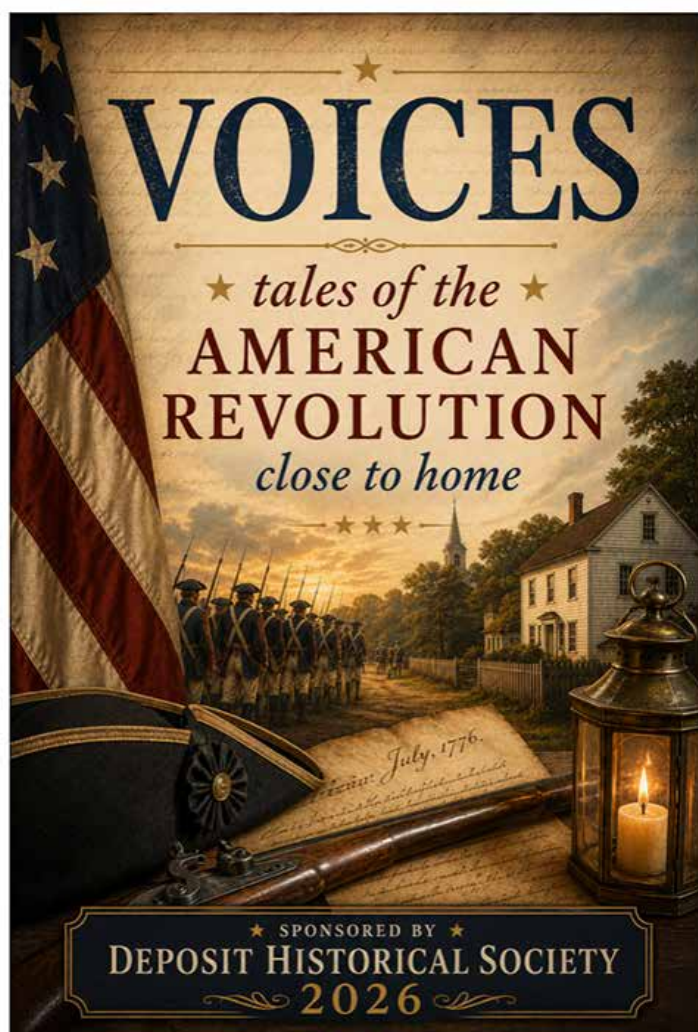
by: Michele Shirkey

Often times, when we hear the words American Revolution, we think of 1776 but the “revolution” started before that in many ways. By the mid 18th century, the thirteen British colonies grew restless under British rule when parliament imposed taxes like the Stamp Act and the Townshend Act without colonial representation. These acts created a heavy burden for the colonists, and they began to yearn for control of their own trade, laws, and to govern its people. In 1773, American colonists staged a protest against British taxation, the famous Boston Tea Party, but it wasn’t until 1776 the Declaration of Independence marked a formal break from British rule. While we hear about the Battle of Lexington and the victory at Saratoga, the battle of Concord, and eventually the Treaty of Paris in 1783, there were many battles fought throughout this span in history. The revolution lasted 8 years in total.

Have you heard about the Wyoming massacre, the battle of Oriskany, German Flats and Fort Stanwix, or perhaps the battle of Johnstown or Caughnawaga or what happened in the battle of Downs Brook, the sugar bush massacre, or the many skirmishes of Colonel William Butler and the Native Americans and Tories? All of these battles occurred in New York State with some of them very close to Deposit.

Did you know that the Fort Stanwix treaty line goes right through Deposit? This line marked the division of patriot land and Native American land. Or that we have several Revolutionary War soldiers buried here in Deposit along with their family members who settled here after the war? Or that a local Deposit doctor was instrumental in helping soldiers gain their war pensions? Well if your curiosity is spiked, please join us for our annual VOICES program. Save the date October 17 and 18th.

You can either join us at the Revolutionary War Cemetery on the 17th or in the Historical Society-meeting room on the 18th. Both start at 7pm. You will hear 10 VOICES from the Revolutionary War period, including captains of the Wyoming massacre and the battle of Oriskany, ups and downs of being a levie in the Revolution, the wife of a Boston Tea Party minuteman, a child’s view of the revolution, a militia soldier who guarded a supply depot, a Native American scout’s story, and a spy for General Washington! All have connections or roots here in Deposit



DHS Members Sew for History

by: Sue Stobert

Preparations are well underway for the Deposit Historical Museum's 2026 "Voices from the Grave" production, a program that will honor Revolutionary War men and women and bring their stories to life for the community. As part of this special effort, members of the Deposit Historical Museum Board have been busy behind the scenes creating historically inspired costumes that will help set the scene for this memorable presentation.

The costume project began with careful planning and the purchase of patterns, fabric, and notions needed to outfit the Revolutionary War soldiers. Board members then gathered to transform those materials into finished pieces, working together through each step of the process.

With sewing machines, pins, shears, needles, and thread in hand, volunteers pinned patterns, cut fabric, and stitched the garments and accessories that will be worn during the production. Their work included completing breeches, tricorne hats, and cravats—details that will help the audience picture the dress and appearance of soldiers from the Revolutionary War era.

The effort reflects the dedication and teamwork of the Museum Board, whose members continue to give their time and talents to preserve and share local history. Each stitch represents not only preparation for a performance, but also a commitment to making the past vivid and meaningful for the audience.

The 2026 "Voices from the Grave" production will invite the community to meet Deposit's brave men and women connected to the Revolutionary War through storytelling, history, and careful attention to period detail. Thanks to the hands-on work of the Deposit Historical Museum Board members, the soldiers' voices will be accompanied by costumes made with care, purpose, and pride.



History of the Teddy Bear

A recent event at the Historical Society was a Teddy Bear Tea. Most people think of a teddy bear as just a soft and cuddly toy, but the teddy bear actually has a rich history that spans more than a century. The story officially begins with a real bear, a US president, and a cartoon that captured the heart of a nation.

In 1902, when on a hunting trip, US president Theodore Roosevelt was invited to shoot a bear that had been tied to a tree. The president refused, saying that it would be unsportsmanlike. A few days after this, the Washington Post shared a political cartoon of “TR” refusing to shoot the bear. This cartoon inspired toy shop owners Morris and Rose Michtom to create a stuffed bear to put in their Brooklyn NY toy store. They named the bear “Teddy Bear,” after getting permission from the President to use his name. Teddy Bear was made of mohair fabric and had jointed arms and legs.

From 1904-1930's teddy bears quickly became popular in America and then around the world. Toy makers in Europe jumped on board, making their own versions, and bears soon became a favorite of children and adults alike. From the 1940's until today, the teddy bear has remained a symbol of comfort, love and childhood for generations. The bears come in all shapes, colors, and sizes, but their mission remains the same- to bring joy and to be a loyal friend. The teddy bear has inspired books, movies, cartoons and even a National Teddy Bear Day, celebrated on September 9th.

Did you know?

In Europe, Russia and China, giving a bear without mentioning its name is considered bad luck.

In the early 1900's bears were used as comfort dolls for soldiers during WW1.

50 Million teddy bears are given as gifts in the United States yearly.

Winnie the Pooh was named after a real bear cub who was found by a Canadian soldier and



brought back to his troop as a mascot. The bear named Winnipeg was later given to the London Zoological Gardens, where Christopher Robin Milne's son worked, and he named his own teddy bear after her. This prompted Christopher Robin Milne to write a story about the bear.

Paddington bear was also created from a real life story. British author Michael Bond was inspired by the sight of Jewish refugees arriving in London with suitcases during WW2, and a lonely bear he saw in a store window on Christmas Eve. His story features a polite bear from the darkest Peru found at London's Paddington Station with a tag that read "Please look after this bear, thank you." The story focuses on politeness, a refugee's vulnerability and a timeless message of kindness and inclusion.

In 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt created the National Foundation for the preservation of fur-bearing animals which is now known as the Humane Society to help preserve bear populations worldwide.



Do you know these famous bears?

1. The cartoon bear who says "not your average bear"_____.
2. What bear is native to Australia?_____
3. What bears urges us to prevent forest fires?_____
4. What bear urges us to "enjoy the go"._____
5. What US state has a bear on their state flag?_____
6. What rainbow colored stuffed bears have names like cheer bear, share bear, and grumpy bear?_____
7. What bear lives at the north pole?_____
8. Piglet, Tigger, and Eyesore are friends of this bear. _____
9. What black and white bear is native to China? _____
10. What constellation is known as "Great Bear"? _____

Answers on page 7

Postcards: Pieces of History

By: Donna Lewis

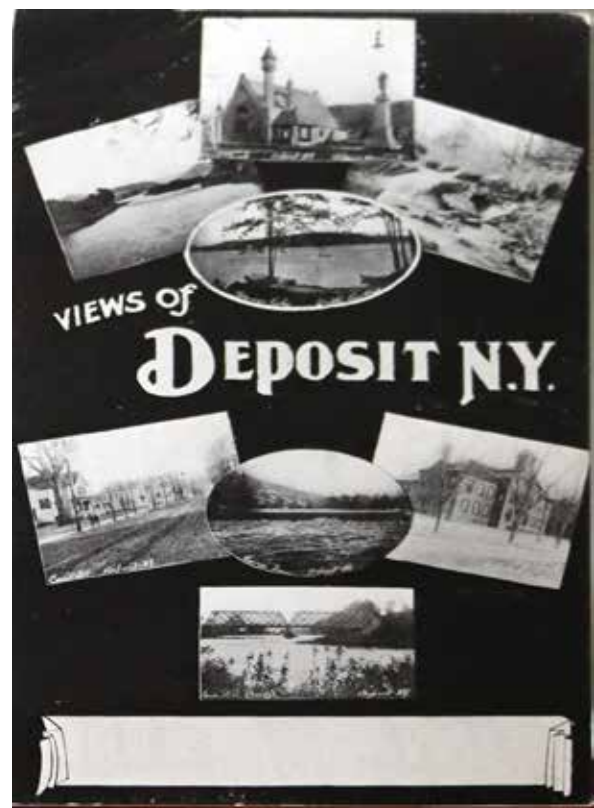
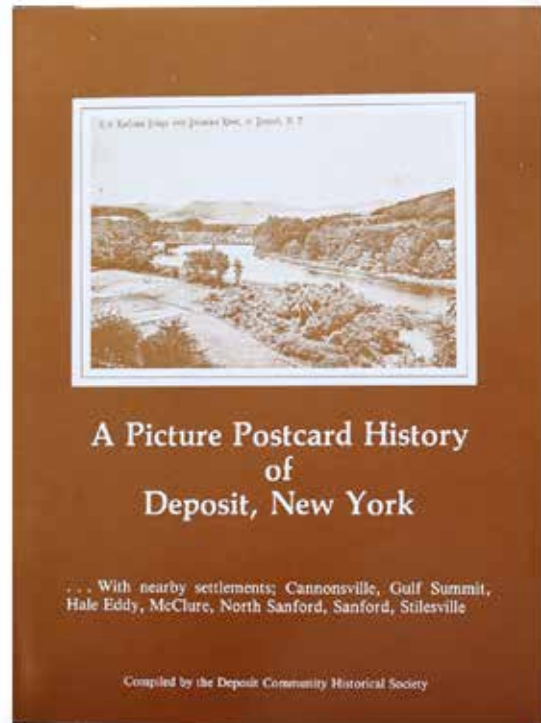
Postcards have an interesting history. In 1861, Congress passed an act allowing privately printed cards, weighing one ounce or less to be mailed.

In 1873, the U.S. government began producing its own postcards, which cost one cent to mail. (For comparison, as of July 12, 2026, a postcard costs \$.65 to mail.) In 1893, the first souvenir postcard, an advertisement for the Chicago World's Fair, was sold.

Before 1907, the address went on one side of the card and the message on the other side. Beginning in 1907, "divided back" cards, with the address and message on one side of the card and a picture on the other side were allowed. This began the "Golden Age of Postcards" (1907-1915) when postcards became an inexpensive way to send messages and greetings. Many of these postcards were collected and put in albums. The "White Border" period (1915-1930), began with World War I, which ended the dominance of cards printed in Germany. American printers left a white border around postcards to save ink.

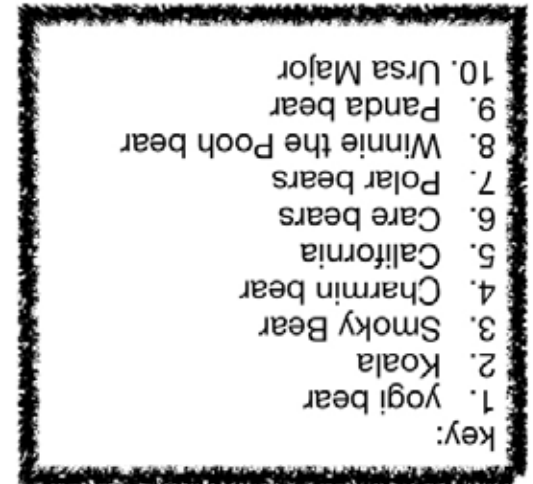
The period 1930-1945 ushered in the "Linen Period" as new printing processes allowed printers to use paper with a high rag content which appeared to be made of linen. After 1945, "photochrome" cards in color began to be produced. These cards looked more like photographs. You can sort through any postcards you have and place them in these same categories.

In the museum gift shop there is a very interesting book which shows many early postcards of Deposit and the surrounding areas. The museum also has picture postcards for sale.





Answers for page 5



DEPOSIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All Wednesday evening 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.

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| Sep. | 16th | “Deposit Fire Department 175th Anniversary”
presented by Chris Zacharias and Dave Lobdell. | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. | 17th. | Fundraiser: “Voices from the Past,” at the Revolutionary Cemetery. | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. | 18th. | Fundraiser: “Voices from the Past,” at the Museum.
Meet voices from the Revolutionary War period and hear their stories. | 7:00 pm |
| Dec. | 6th. | “Holdrege Family Christmas” | 2:00 pm |

Beginning Memorial Day weekend and through Columbus Day 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.

CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH A MEMBERSHIP

Consider a lifetime membership as a way to honor USA's 250th

Gift a membership to a history buff

Introduce a young person to Deposit's history with a membership

Lifetime: \$250

Annual: \$20

Deposit Historical Society

PO box 134 Deposit, NY 13754

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 We will be delighted to hear from you! Thanks!!

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