



DHS News

The Official Newsletter
of the

Deposit Historical Society

JUNE 2024 Vol XXII Issue I

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

Welcome to the 2024 season at the museum. We have been working diligently to get the museum in order. We have been painting and cleaning in preparation for getting the museum open. Please put us on your checklist of places to visit during the summer of '24. We have altered our hours on Saturday (10:00 AM to noon), hoping that people are able to stop in and visit when they're out around the village. We look forward to your company. By the time you receive our newsletter we will be open.

Our programs are set for the third Wednesday of the month, and we have a full slate of programs. They are both educational and interesting, plus; we have refreshments for those attending our programs.

Our research library is still open on Tuesday mornings (9:30 to 12:30). Please stop in if you have questions in regard to your family tree or historical items that may be of interest.

We thank everybody for their generous donations to the upkeep of the museum. Our plans for the year include resurfacing our steps to the Bank and replacing the windows in the Bundy house.

Terry Raymond President



Barbourville, NY - From the Archives

compiled by Michele Shirkey

Barbourville New York is situated on the Astraguntira Creek (now called Cold Spring Brook), a branch off the Delaware River. It is located approximately 8 miles north of Deposit on State Route 8. The first white men to come to the area in the early 1800's were Nathaniel Cook and his five sons. At the time of their settlement here they called the area "Cook Settlement." Shortly after the Cooks in 1805, Moses Axtell and family came to the area. The Cook family moved on, and soon the settlement was called Axtell Hollow. In 1820, James, William, and John Barbour settled in the valley. The Barbours were very active businessmen and grew the settlement from rural farms to a

community. Unfortunately, they were only in the area for a short time, as all three met with untimely deaths. They built an Inn, a saw mill, a grist mill, a one room school house, a church and a creamery. The settlement was renamed Barbourville in their honor, and it is still named that today. In the late 1800's, a second school was built, a post office, a general store and a community dance hall. In 1898 telephone poles were being constructed by individuals, not by any company. In 1928, rural mail started to be delivered to the area. In 1930, Barbourville got its first hard surface road, and in 1937 Barbourville got power lines to begin to supply the community with electricity.



Picture: Upper Barbourville Church which was located at the corner of Route 8 and Steam Mill Road. The church was torn down to make way for the "new Route 8".

Front row: David Axtell, Howard Beebe, John Axtell, Jessie Axtell, Helen Gardner, Flora Axtell, Sylvia Axtell holding daughter Joyce, Eleanor Axtell, Elizabeth Gardinier, Ruby Gardner.

Middle row: Joe Hotaling, William Aztec, Eddie Cooper, Capitola Couse, Edna Couse (teacher at the upper Barbourville school which was across the road from the church), Helen Axtell, unknown, unknown, and Frances Beebe.

Top row: Ray Beebe, Edgar Couse, Eldridge Axtell, Herbert Axtell, Charlie Gardinier, unknown, Stanley Gardiner.

There is a mere sign now when passing through Barbourville and a foot path to the Barbourville cemetery. The thriving little community it once was is no longer.

In the 1930's Barbourville still boasted an Inn, a post office and general store, a church, a community center, a cemetery, and two schoolhouses (one in lower Barbourville and one in Upper Barbourville). One of the residents was Frances Beebe. Frances was the wife of Ray Beebe, and mother of Howard. They ran

a dairy farm just north of the Kenneth Axtell farm and just south of the George Dickinson farm on Route 8. Frances kept journals on the daily happenings in Barbourville which were donated to the Historical Society. From her journal dated 1935 here are a few of the daily excerpts from each month:

January: Today I am getting a "fancy" kitchen. Jack is plastering the side walls and it looks mighty "fancy". Howard has gone to Afton with Dick and Kathryn Axtell and Chas Nightingale for basketball. Howard was able to sell the fox he trapped for \$4.

February: Herbert Axtell is 60 years old today and Loran Lymm had a baby girl. Dick Gransbury had an operation on his neck at the Binghamton City Hospital. Eleanor Axtell came home from Cortland where she is studying to be a teacher. The Axtell ladies came to visit a spell- Bea, Jessie, and Alice. Alice Lucille has two little teeth.

March: Excitement in the neighborhood! Clifford Howland has a new Chevrolet coach. The first heifer came in last night with a bull calf. Florence has a new telephone, and Ruby and Charles have adopted a son. He is three years old.

April: I'm baking bread and the boys are dehorning the young stock today. Aunt Hattie will be staying in town for a few days. Ray was elected as the director of the community house and will be attending a meeting this month. I finished making my orange silk dress for the dance at the community hall. Fred finally washed his woolen underwear today!

May: Ray and I went to Jersey City and had a lovely time. Eleanor signed her contract to teach in our lower Barbourville school today. I finished planting the garden and the boys have been building fence. Howard and Lida have gone to the senior play tonite. Jessie and I went to the school fair at Hamletville. Our school took first prize. The boys have gone to Cannonsville for their first ball game of the season. Howard and I went to the theatre to see Will Roger's in "Life Begins at Forty".

June: We have a college graduate in the neighborhood. Eleanor L. Axtell graduated from Cortland Normal School today. Howard went down to school to try typewriting this afternoon, and his final chemistry class is tomorrow. Ray and I have been married 22 years today.

July: Picked 3 pints of berries from the field today. Howard and the boys are off to Masonville to play ball while I make jam with the berries. We are getting a new hay loader today. Lots of baseball today. This morning in Hamletville and this afternoon in Rock Royal. Lots of rain. Many bridges down due to the flooding. Whitney Point had 19 feet and Binghamton 17 feet and there was a big fire at Walton Delhi caused by a gas leak. Went to Binghamton to see the flood remains. From wet to hot. Boys got the first load of hay in today. The huckleberries are plentiful. I am all broke out with 3 day measles this morning.

August: Went to the county fair. Lake Delawares Secret took first prize, Octavia calf took second, and Summer Jay heifer 3rd. Large crowd and big traffic jam. The Axtell family all went to the Whitney Point fair. Went to the Afton fair, and today was the auto races. Kenneth and Sylvia Axtell have a son born this morning. I had a chance to go to the Norwich fair. Big church wedding tonight Vernon Titus and Arlene Winter. The corn is ready for picking. I am canning beets, beans, and peaches.



1939-40 This class Grade 2
~~Front~~ Rear row
 by school L to R

Phyllis Stafford	Middle Row	Front Row
Patty Davis	Joyce Vandermark	Dean Stood
Martin Baker	Joyce Hartwell	Daryl Sprague
Donald Stanton	Beverly Skinner	Martin Sanford
Joseph Mangel	Delores Pingerelli	Jerrey Stood
Frank Buck	Marjory Ray	Edward Thomas
Evelyn Strong	Eileen Ryan	Jerry Carson
Dorothy Peake	Brucilla Hart	Ernest Stood
Clark Van Belt	Joyce Leonard	John Cleveland
Richard Clift	Mary Dailey	Alfred Moore
Peter Hess	Jean Fox	Arthur Page
	Barbara Conklin	Gerald Becker
	Barbara Buchanan	
absent	Edna Kelsey	
Sally Slater	Vivian Allen	
Cora Jane Stark	Doraine Moore	
Wilbur Taylor	Nora Skellett	

September: Eleanor began her first teaching job today. Its time for the Owego fair! Howard gone to the show tonight to see Curly Top Shirley Temple. Had the herd tested for TB today. Ray and I went to the Montrose fair. Made plum jam and our butter order came in today. Took 4 chickens to the market.

October: The world series began today. Chicago won 3-0. Detroit won today 8-3. Detroit won today 6-5 in 11 innings. Today is the 6th game of the series and Detroit takes the pennant! Ray paid up for a new double insurance policy today. The cost was \$2. A little girl was taken to Binghamton today. She has infantile paralysis. Had our first frost. Sent a big order to the Montana Ward and Company today for supplies totally \$17.

November: The boys got deer licenses today. Ray is now on the election board. Our town went republican. Ray got a 10 point buck. We attended the box social at the community house. Went to visit the George's this pm as they are leaving soon for Florida. All star baseball game in town and then a turkey shoot. Preparing for turkey dinner and a house full of guests. We added another member to the community- Eldridge Lee Axtell Jr. was born. His mom Bea is doing fine.

December: More rain and flooding. Helen Gardinier and Sam Banonano were married today. Oysters and clams and a pheasant arrived today for the holiday. Gary butchered our hog. Pickled some pork and fried out my lard. Richard Beebe and Emma Conroy were married today. More telephone lines are getting added so we have live telephone. Ray worked 20 hours on the lines. Not sitting up to welcome 1936.

Eleanor began teaching in the one roomed school house in Barbourville and when the new centralized school was built in Deposit (the former Deposit elementary building) she moved there. Miss Axtell's 2nd grade class and schedule 1939. She had 41 students! (Eleanor Axtell became Eleanor Stoddart and she taught 2nd grade in Deposit for 40 years.

Deposit High School		
Daily Program		
Semester 1939 - 1940		
Grade <i>II</i>	Teacher <i>Eleanor Axtell</i>	
Time	Daily	Exception
	A. M.	
9:00-9:02	Morning Inspection	
9:02-10:00	Reading	
10:00-10:10	Basement	
10:10-10:20	Games	
10:20-10:40	Music	Fri. Safety
10:40-11:05	Arithmetic	
11:05-11:15	Spelling	
11:15-11:20	Dismissal	
	P. M.	
12:50-2:00	Reading	
2:00-2:10	Basement	
2:10-2:30	Writing W.H.F.	Health M.T.
2:30-3:10	Art M.T.	English W.Th.
3:10-3:15	Dismissal	
2:30-2:45	Health	W.Th.
2:30-2:50	Chapel Fri.	
2:10-2:30	English	Fri.
2:50-3:10	Stories	Fri.

Sue Stobart

Back in August 2021, museum curator Becky Raymond asked me to help her examine several antique clothing items, WWI military uniforms and antique dolls that were donated to the museum. What started as a favor to a friend turned into regularly stopping down to the museum on Tuesday mornings to access many interesting artifacts. I eventually accepted an invitation to join the Board of Directors of the Deposit Historical Society in October 2021.



Since then, I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I've spent volunteering my time to help the Historical Society in any way that I'm able. All the Board members are dedicated, knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with. We're not originally from Deposit but my husband, Tom, and I have lived here since 1968. I love learning about the village's history through the re-

search library and the treasure of historical items that can be found throughout the Bank and the Bundy House.

I accepted a position to teach Home Economics at the Deposit Junior Senior High School in the spring of 1968. Little did I know at the time that I would continue to teach grades 7-12 here for the next 33 years. Tom and I were happy to adopt Deposit

as our hometown and raise our three children in this close-knit community. Although I'm retired from the teaching field, my love for vintage clothing, textiles, domestic arts and historical housing has been rekindled by the Historical Society. Volunteering gives me the opportunity to pursue my interests and preserve history. I am honored to be a member of the Historical Society Board.

New face at the DHS



My name is Zach Matthews, I am a native of the Deposit Area, I am married to my wife Gabi Matthews, and I have a son JT Matthews. I teach at Deposit Central School, I coach Varsity Football, teach Global, US History, History of Deposit Class, and History of War Through Film as well as push into gen ed classrooms and host AIS. I love spending time with my family, and sports including football, baseball, basketball, golf, and hunting. I love Deposit, this community provided me with so many opportunities to be successful and helped shape and mold me into the person I am today. I am excited and blessed to have been asked to be a part of the DHS team and I am looking forward to work with the staff at the Museum/Bundy House!

The History of Gravestone Art



On May 22nd, Kurt Riegel presented the program “The History of Gravestone Art and How to Clean and Restore the Stones.” Kurt is one of the nation’s foremost experts in the restoration and cleaning of historic monuments and gravestones. The main theme of his message is that the best way to preserve a headstone is to leave it alone.

He began the program by stating that a gravestone is the only artifact left that attests to the fact that a person has lived and died. The stones reflect the culture of the time through their art and engravings and by the type of stone used. Today, if you want a lasting stone, purchase granite and use raised letters.

Kurt then explained do’s and don’ts in regards to gravestones. Do not use bleach or soap on the stones, as they cause permanent damage and make the stone unreadable in 10-15 years. Do not repair with epoxy or cement, as they become harder than the gravestone and would have to be chipped off for later repairs. Use a mason’s lime mortar mix to repair a broken stone, as it allows the stone to “breathe” and be fixed without further damage in the future. Do not

repair stones with iron bars as they rust, puts holes in the stone, and causes spider cracks when the iron and stone expand and contract differently. Do not do gravestone rubbings as it may cause the top of the stone to separate and fall off. If you want to read a stone that is hard to read, go to the cemetery between 12:30 and 1:00 with a large mirror and angle the sunlight across the stone to get a clear reading.

The only acceptable cleaner is a product called D/2. Mix the D/2 in a clean spray bottle with water (50/50 mix), wet the stone with plain water, spray the D/2 mixture on the stone, walk away and return in 3 or 4 months to see a nice, clean stone. You can also wet the stone, spray on the D/2 and water mixture and use a soft bristle nylon brush to lightly scrub while keeping the stone from drying out. He warned that you will need a lot of water to do this properly. If you want to clear out the fungus or mold from the lettering on the gravestone, use a wooden popsicle stick, not metal. His main message, which he repeated many times, is to leave the stones alone as many “good” intentions can cause further damage.

Annual Museum Flea Market Sale

June 15th from 10 am to 2 pm

Rain or shine



Hot dogs, snacks and drinks available

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.

June 15th- Open House and sale, 10-2

June 19th- "Stories from the American Revolution" by Scott Payne, 7pm

July 14th- Historical walking tour of Deposit, 1 pm

July 16th- Family fun at the museum with guest speaker Jordan Patch from Animal Adventure, 2 pm

August 6th- "Tea Time" with speaker Alyssa Hardy presenting "Its all about the tea," 1pm

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

October 26/27th- "Voices from the Grave," Pine Grove Cemetery, 7pm

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

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.

Membership Renewal Time Again

If you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to renew your membership for 2024.

Membership rates are as follows:

Lifetime -- \$250

Annual -- \$20

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 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!!

Would you like to receive a paperless copy of future DHS Newsletters?

Please send your email address to dephistsoc@aol.com

The Deposit Historical Society Newsletter
145 Second Street
Deposit, NY
13754